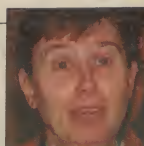


Jail sentence for former prez
Zimbabwe's Canaan Banana gets
one year in prison for sexual assault.
page 19

A modern-day inquisition
Catholic founders of gay
ministry ordered silenced.
page 12



Passing the 'Torch'
Harvey Fierstein's opus, from
stage to screen and back.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 30 • No. 22 • 1 June 2000

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

East Bay teen's Web 'hit list' threatened gays

by Ed Walsh

A Fremont high school freshman was suspended for five days last month for posting a "hit list" on the Internet that threatened "faggots," his parents, fellow students, teachers, and police. This week, police said they planned to meet with parents who are concerned because the teenager has been allowed to return to school.

The *Bay Area Reporter* has obtained a copy of the list. It was voluntarily removed from the boy's Web site.

"Alright [sic], there are a few people that hate me for no damn reason, and then there's the faggots that really just deserve to die and burn in the seventh layer of hell," the Mission San Jose High School student's one and a half page diatribe begins. "You know who you are, one day you may find a hunting knife carving a pentagram in your back. So fuck you. I'll see you in hell. This is in no specific order, but my parents are the first to die."

The ninth-grader goes on in his second paragraph to vent the anger he has for his parents for their "stupid high standards" and lashes out at his father who he says "beats the shit out of me for getting anything below an A."

After his parents, the teenager lists more than a dozen students, teachers, and police officers. In one paragraph, he names one of his classmates and writes: "This faggot said I was Chinese, and expects me to apologize to him for calling him a bitch. I think I'm going to rip his jaw out." The freshman, who is Vietnamese American, lashed out at a second student for being "a bitch" and saying he was Chinese.

The hit list ends with "you're all gonna DIE!!! HAHHAH..."

Fremont police Officer Ken Nance, who is assigned to the high school and was named in the hit list, told the *B.A.R.* that the school district's hands are somewhat tied because the boy never threatened anyone on school grounds and never e-mailed the hit list to anyone. Nance said a classmate of the boy had stumbled on the list and alerted authorities.

Several parents said they were concerned when the teen returned to school and said they feared authorities weren't taking the threat seriously enough. Nance said he planned to reassure parents at the meeting he planned for this week. Nance added the school district is looking at other possible remedies they could take against the boy. ▽

All smiles in Chicago



Leather hearts prevailed last weekend in Chicago at the International Mr. Leather contest. Winners, from left, Scott Bloom, first runner-up; Mike Taylor, IML 2000; and Bob "Puppy" Pedder, second runner-up. For all the details, see Bazaar on page 44.

Mister Marcus

Gay youth throws hat in the ring for District 6 supe race

by Katie Szymanski

He's here, he's queer, he's 23 years old. But Dennis Isner's young age, according to the District 6 candidate for San Francisco supervisor, should be an advantage, as he believes that his open mind and energy will no doubt benefit his would-be constituents.

"The Board of Supervisors can be considered a young board," Isner told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "but it's not young enough."

Isner, a four-year resident of the district, kicked off his candidacy for the seat last Saturday, May 27, with a small rally on the steps of City Hall and a walk through the Civic Center and Tenderloin.

And while nobody has yet given him grief about his age, one thing is for certain: speaking to Isner is not only politically engaging—he is a former San Francisco Youth Commission member once responsible for drafting legislation and negotiating policy—but refreshing.

To date, no incumbent supervisor lives in District 6, though Supervisor Leslie Katz has made noise about moving into the area.

Isner—who lives in the Tenderloin—decided to run when an owner move-in eviction relocated him to the district, which he sees as "politically neglected."

"This is the most diverse district in the city," said Isner, pointing out that District 6 includes South of Market, the Tenderloin, parts of the Mission, and Treasure Island.

"There's a heavy Asian community within the Tenderloin. There's a big Filipino community in SOMA and downtown. And now there's a huge surge of dot-coms living in lofts in SOMA, who aren't necessarily very politically active, and we need their input, too. It's



District 6 supervisor candidate Dennis Isner

Jane Philomeni Cleland

important to encompass all of those needs and concerns."

No enemy to development, but no fan of haphazard construction, either, Isner's platform includes a comprehensive plan for future building in the district.

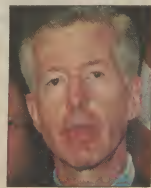
"When there are no brakes applied to development, we need to be looking at things like how it affects traffic, for one, and how the district is going to look when it's all built. It'll be a very different place."

"District elections are a prime opportunity—page 10 ▸

Davis vetoes family leave bill

by Terry Beswick

While calling the Family Medical Leave Act "well-intentioned," Governor Gray Davis vetoed the bill last Tuesday May 23, saying that the measure from state Senator Tom Hayden (D-Los Angeles) went too far, expanding current law to allow employees to take unpaid leave to care for an ailing grandparent, sibling, domestic partner, or—most problematic for the governor—even a roommate.



Gov. Gray Davis

Davis was harshly criticized for the veto by at least one gay and lesbian rights group, which noted that if the bill had been signed, employees with domestic partners would have been able to use company sick leave when their partners became ill; others took a more equanimous approach.

The bill, SB118, was not made a priority for passage by the California Alliance for Pride and Equality, the statewide lobbying group for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, according to Executive Director Jean Harris.

"We knew the governor was going to veto the bill," commented Harris, adding that CAPE had not been tracking the bill closely. "He's very willing to work with us on a domestic partnership bill [to include medical leave] next year."

Harris said she is concerned primarily with four "minor" domestic partnership bills now working their way through the Legislature with strong Democratic support.

First introduced by Hayden in 1999, SB118 was amended several times before being passed this year through both houses of the Democratic-controlled Legislature on party line votes. It was co-sponsored on the Assembly side by openly lesbian Assembly-

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FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

COMMUNITY NEWS

Badlands bar reopens

by Ed Walsh

For the first time since the Phoenix bar closed in 1996, there's a second place to dance in the Castro. The new Badlands bar reopened in time for the Memorial Day weekend, sporting an upscale high-tech look, and bearing absolutely no resemblance to the old Badlands.

A circular dance floor with a spaceship-like motif replaced the wood tables and benches in the back. The license plate-clad wooden walls are gone, replaced with brick and steel. Music videos play in monitors set up everywhere in the club.

Noise wary neighbors have thwarted other attempts by bar owners to put in a dance floor. Patrick Batt, the president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Badlands' owner, Les Natali, did his homework by conducting outreach to neighbors to address their noise concerns. Batt said he testified before the San Francisco Planning Commission of the big demand for another dance bar in the Castro.

Badlands was redesigned with an eye towards minimizing noise



The line was long outside the new Badlands bar on Monday.

impact on neighbors. Its video dance floor is in the back of the building, in a separate room from the front bar. The front is no louder than Badlands was before it was remodeled.

Natali, who also owns the Patio Café, purchased Badlands from Frank McGrady in 1998. McGrady had owned the landmark 18th Street bar for 21 years.

Understandably, there were a few glitches during the club's

opening. On Monday night, the music went silent for a minute or two as the veejay tried to figure out how to restart the music video system. A few minutes later, an alarm bell went off. After a few stops and starts, employees finally silenced it.

Opening glitches aside, given the long lines and appreciative crowds inside, Badlands is well on its way to becoming one of the biggest draws in the Castro. ▼

ACT UP/SF members remain at large

by Terry Beswick

When the AIDS organization Project Inform recently decided to go to the mat with ACT UP/San Francisco — obtaining temporary restraining orders against five members of the HIV/AIDS dissident group, and then pressing criminal assault and trespassing charges against four of the same individuals — Project Inform and its attorneys at first assumed that the wheels of justice were in motion.

However, it seems they underestimated the anarchists' willingness to evade the law, as well as the low-priority status the case would be given by San Francisco law enforcement officials.

At press time, more than two weeks after the arrest warrants were issued for ACT UP/San Francisco members David Pasquarelli, Andrea Lindsay, Jason "Todd" Swindell, and Michael Bellefontaine, the four were still at large.

Speaking to the *Bay Area Reporter* on May 16, Hallinan's spokesman Fred Gardner said that although arrest warrants had been issued, the D.A. and St. Pierre had agreed that the four would "turn themselves in voluntarily" to the San Francisco Police Department on the following Monday, May 22,

to face the criminal charges.

But the four failed to honor the agreement.

Reached Tuesday afternoon, May 30, Gardner was not able to confirm whether the D.A.'s office had yet notified the SFPD that the ACT UP/San Francisco members had broken their agreement to surrender themselves.

SFPD Inspector Lea Militello,

who had conducted the investigation of the April 17 public forum when the alleged trespassing and assaults took place, said that because the criminal charges are misdemeanors, police officers are not likely to "break down their doors."

"But if it's not done," Militello said, "then I'll take responsibility to pick them up myself." ▼

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California writers, researchers honored for working to combat homophobia

by Katie Szymanski

When Paul Monette lost his lover Roger Horwitz to AIDS, he wrote *Borrowed Time: an AIDS Memoir*, which was hailed by *USA Today* in 1988 as "one of the most eloquent works to come out of the AIDS epidemic." He also established a trust in his late lover's name to provide money to writers, film and video artists, scholars, researchers, and organizations that work to combat homophobia.

Monette died of AIDS in 1995, but his trust — now the Monette/Horwitz Trust — lives on.

This year's recipients of the Monette/Horwitz Trust include Dr. Gregory Herek, who received the \$5,000 prize for the Distinguished Achievement Award, and James Naylor Green, Robin Podolsky and Dr. Yolanda Retter, the winners of the \$2,500 Emerging Scholar Awards.

Herek, a professor of psychology at the University of California at Davis, is honored for his groundbreaking research on prejudice against the LGBT community, hate crimes statistics, and AIDS-related stigma. In 1992 he co-edited *Hate Crimes: Confronting Violence Against Lesbians and Gay Men*, contributing his own writing to at least six of the book's 18 chapters. In 1995, he edited *AIDS, Identity, and Community: HIV and Lesbians and Gay Men*. And in 1998, he was named executive editor of the series *Contemporary Perspectives in Lesbian and Gay Psychology*, published by the American Psychological Association.

Green is the author of *Beyond Carnival: Male Homosexuality in Twentieth Century Brazil*. An assistant professor at California State University, Long Beach, Green's research has illuminated the lives of gay men and lesbians in Brazil with both his book and numerous scholarly articles.

Podolsky's news analysis and social commentary have appeared as a regular column in *LA Weekly*, *LA Village View*, and in numerous other publications in the Jewish, arts, and LGBT communities. Her

forthcoming book, *Queer Cosmopolis*, will be published by New York University Press.

Retter received a Lambda Literary Award for *Queers in Space: Communities, Public Places, Sites of Resistance* in 1997. She is a longtime activist in the lesbian community and currently serves as the staff librarian for the Gay and Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles.

All four awards will be presented as part of the annual Lambda Literary Awards, to be held tonight, June 1, in Chicago. ▼

Cheer SF at Pride events

by Cynthia Laird

Cheer San Francisco, that spirited troupe of entertainers who perform as kind of a pep squad representing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, is once again traveling around the Bay Area for upcoming Pride events.

Dubbed the "rainbow tour," Cheer SF heads first to Santa Cruz this weekend, where members will perform at that city's gay Pride festival this Sunday, June 4. The popular 20-member cheer team is slated to take to the stage at San Lorenzo Park at 12:15 p.m. and again at 1:30. Steve Burke, who's been with Cheer SF for the last 10 years, said the squad has appeared at Santa Cruz Pride for nine years running. "The festival's main stage is erected to meet the team's dance, tumbling, and pyramid-building space needs," Burke said.

Cheer SF will be joined in the pre-festival parade down Pacific Avenue by the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. Santa Cruz's 25th annual parade kicks

off at 11 a.m. Burke said a "generous portion" of donations collected by the group during the event will be given to the Santa Cruz AIDS Project as part of the cheerleader's Cheer for Life campaign.

Cheer SF heads south again next Sunday, June 11, for appearances at San Jose's Pride event. The team will tumble its way down Market Street in the South Bay city during the parade that starts at 9:30 a.m. and take to the main stage at Guadalupe Park for a 2 p.m. performance. The Cheer for Life campaign recipient will be the Billy de Frank Center. This is the fourth trip to San Jose for the group, which in the past has taken home honors for best marching unit.

Later this month, Cheer SF will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a performance at San Francisco's Pride event. ▼

For a schedule of Cheer SF's 2000 appearances, upcoming tryout information, and other information, check out www.cheersf.org.

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Summer Session runs June 13th through July 27th. Classes meet Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Students can complete registration at the Castro/Valencia campus during the first two weeks of classes.

For more information call 415.239.3127
Visit the CCSF website at <http://www.ccsf.org>

TG task force meets today

by Terry Beswick

The first meeting of the city-chartered Transgender Civil Rights Implementation Task Force will be held tonight (Thursday, June 1) at 5:30 p.m. in San Francisco City Hall, room 278. The meeting is open to the public.

The task force will oversee implementation of systemic policy recommendations in six major areas in San Francisco: employment, hate violence, law enforce-

ment, housing, public accommodations and social services, and medical care.

Of the 17 members, 11 were appointed by the Board of Supervisors and three were chosen by the city's Human Rights Commission. The remaining three are being appointed by Mayor Willie Brown.

Supervisor Mark Leno authored the resolution creating the task force, which will be administered by his office. For more information, call Nathan Purkiss in Leno's office at (415) 554-7734. ▼

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Club defends aggressive security at circuit party

by Ed Walsh

The management of the 1015 Folsom nightclub is defending itself from allegations of club security went too far in enforcing a new strict zero tolerance drug policy at the gay circuit party, Mass.

At least a half dozen people waiting in line for Mass were arrested Sunday night, May 28, by 1015 Folsom security. Those arrested were turned over to San Francisco police, taken to jail, and booked on drug possession charges.

A friend of one of the men who was arrested supports the club's efforts to keep drugs out but believes employees were too ag-

gressive in their searches. "I had a finger up my ass, and in my crotch," Thomas Morelli told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

1015 Folsom personnel strongly disputed that account. The club's general manager, Brooks Pettus, said his security officers never touch a customer's crotch area. He said the club strictly follows police search procedure. That includes patting down the inside of a patron's leg and down to the small of the back. Pettus said he employs undercover officers who watch for drug use inside the club to catch people who may try to smuggle drugs in their crotch or in another way that would be undetected by searches.

Pettus said the club warns pa-

trons verbally and with posted signs that they will be searched and arrested if they are found with drugs. He faxed a copy of the warning sign to the B.A.R.: "To enter this facility you will have to consent to a search. Anyone in possession of controlled substances will be turned over to the police."

Dave Helm, 1015's security director, said some of those in line first consented to be searched and then withdrew their consent when they apparently believed the security officer was close to discovering drugs. Those customers, he said, were allowed to walk away.

Morelli said he is concerned many club patrons aren't aware they have the right to insist a

page 23 ►

HIV-positives sought for ad campaign

by Katie Szymanski

Hmmm. On one hand, it's a chance to be on television, in print advertising, and on the Internet as part of an HIV prevention campaign.

Better World Advertising is seeking gay and bisexual men and transgenders who are HIV-positive to appear in commercials that declare, "HIV Stops With Me." Auditions are June 4 and 5 at a nearby location revealed by calling the ad agency and interviewing over the phone.

On the other hand, the commercial's message – that "gay and bisexual men have the power to stop the epidemic in the city," according to BWA's Risha Hess – might be interpreted as assigning blame to transmission, and the

ad's tactics may leave little room for anything but swearing to be 100 percent perfect.

"We will be talking to HIV-positives about their commitments and strategies to stop the spread of the disease," said Hess.

The ads – funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – will probably not favor "lower-risk activities," so unless those featured are ready to tell the world that they are either celibate or wrapped head-to-toe in latex, appearing in a broadcast could backfire on their lives.

But for those who are indeed human condoms and don't mind taking some of the responsibility for the spread of AIDS, this is a chance to bask in more than 15 minutes of fame.

The broadcast ads will air during prime time – probably during

Will & Grace, according to Hess, and they will be complemented by newspaper, magazine, billboard, and Internet ad campaigns.

People of all shapes, sizes, ages, and ethnicities are welcome to audition. No acting experience is necessary.

"Prevention methods usually target people who are negative," according to Hess. "But people aren't out of the picture once they're diagnosed, so this is an important way for them to be a part of prevention, too. The gay and bisexual population in San Francisco just happens to be the largest population affected by the disease." ▼

Those who are interested can call (415) 837-1100 to make an appointment or receive more information.

Pride Power breakfast Friday

by Katie Szymanski

It is time once again to drag yourself out of bed shortly after dawn and head downtown for an inspiring intellectual debate on queer issues.

The Pride Collaborative, a project of the United Way, will host its June Pride Power breakfast tomorrow (Friday, June 2), from 8-9:30 a.m. The breakfast topic will be "Hey, What's Going On Here?"

or, "Queer Life in a Post-Proposition 22, Post-Vermont, Pre-SF Pride, Pre-Pridential Election Environment."

Featured panelists include Kate Kendell, executive director of National Center for Lesbian Rights; Jean Harris, executive director of California Alliance for Pride and Equality; and Teddy Witherington, executive director of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Celebration Committee. Guests can enjoy

yummy food and very necessary coffee while listening to and participating in the discussion, which somehow is always stimulating enough to energize the crowd throughout the day.

The Pride Power breakfast is at 50 California Street, on the second floor. A \$10 donation at the door benefits the Pride Collaborative. Please RSVP to Selisse Berry, (415) 439-4272, ext. 2, or e-mail selisse.berry@theunitedway.com. ▼

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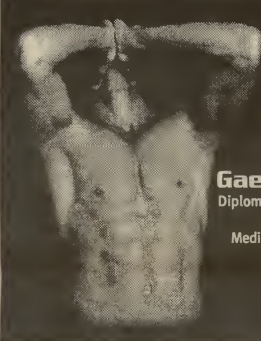
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PUBLISHER

Bob Ross

NEWS EDITOR

Cynthia Laird

ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Terry Beswick

Mark Mardon

Katie Szymanski

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Tavo Amador • Heidi Beeler • David Bianco
Erin Blackwell • John Blanco • Dan Blue
Nancy Boutiller • Victoria A. Brownworth
Philip Campbell • Chris Cuiwell • Richard Dadds
Nisa Donnelly • Liz Highleyman • Brandon Judell
Robert Julian • John F. Karr • Matthew Kennedy
Simon LeVay • Daniel Mangin • Mister Marcus
Michael McDonagh • Gary Morris • Jim Nawrocki
Lois Pearlman • Deborah Peifer • Timothy Pfaff
Jim Provenzano • Mary Richards
Adrian Roberts • Bob Roehr • Will Shank
Marv. Shaw • Paul Thomason • Aimée Ts'ao
Stephanie von Buchau • Helen Vozenilek
Ed Walsh • Dick Walters

ART DIRECTION & DESIGN

Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & LAYOUT

Scott King

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Mike Hardison

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland • Darlene/PhotoGraphics
Marc Geller • Rick Gerharter

ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

Paul Burge • Jerry Business
Ben Carlson • Fran Frisch

GENERAL MANAGER

Michael M. Yamashita

ADVERTISING MANAGER

David McBrayer

CIRCULATION

Clifford Webb

BARTALK PERSONALS

Mike Lacy

NATIONAL ADVERTISING

REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Marketing Company, Inc.
212.242.6863

LEGAL COUNSEL

Thomas E. Horn, Esq.

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild
United Press International



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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OPEN FORUM

When in Rome ...

The lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in Rome – and by extension around the world – is under assault by the Catholic Church and Italy's powerful neo-fascist movement over the planned World Pride Roma event set for July 1-9 in the Italian city. After years of planning and securing necessary permits, recent developments have left the event in limbo as Vatican leaders have stepped up opposition to the event, thanks in part to San Francisco's own Archbishop William Levada. The archbishop has spoken to Italian media outlets, creating a wave of fear among people there by implying that LGBT people will get out of control. That World Pride coincides with the Catholic Church's planned Jubilee celebrations set for the same time during the Holy Year called by Pope John Paul II has added fuel to the fire of those opposing the gay pride celebration, which includes conferences on human rights and a pride march through central Rome. It has been reported that Levada has even sent a video to his fellow Catholic leaders that purportedly contains footage of past San Francisco gay Pride Parades – the only problem is that it doesn't. According to Americans who are in Rome helping organizers plan for next month's event and have seen portions of the video aired on the evening news, the video contains scenes from other San Francisco celebrations, including past Halloween festivities.

LGBT San Franciscans know all too well about Levada and his tactics; after all, this is the archbishop who last year tried – and failed – to shut down the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's 20th anniversary celebration that fell on Easter Sunday. And members of the Diocese of San Francisco gay-baited the electorate at the expense of Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano during his unsuccessful race for mayor last fall. Levada last month told an Italian newspaper that the city's gay Pride Parade goes past St. Mary's Cathedral – a flagrant misstatement – in a further attempt to inflame passions about the upcoming Rome celebration.

He later said the comments attributed to him were inaccurate.

On Monday, Rome's mayor withdrew the city's sponsorship of World Pride Roma, which came a day after a top Italian cardinal appealed to city officials to move the event elsewhere. That development had other Italian officials speaking out in opposition to the decision. "It's a matter of deciding if Italy is a lay country, free and democratic, or it's a Vatican serfdom," said Franco Grillini, who heads a national government commission dealing with equal opportunity matters.

The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission is calling on LGBT people and other supporters of freedom of expression to participate in demonstrations today (Thursday, June 1) at Italian diplomatic posts around the world. In San Francisco, the rally is set for 11 a.m. at the Italian

Consulate, 2590 Webster Street. IGLHRC is asking for LGBT solidarity in working with Italian activists who are calling on Rome Mayor Francesco Rutelli to live up to his earlier promise to give World Pride its permits and money that the city promised back in January.

The present Italian government is increasingly intimidated by Vatican and rightist agitation that is creating a climate of fear and intolerance in Rome. World Pride Roma must go forward, and organizers are working to make that happen. We urge concerned readers to take part in today's San Francisco demonstration, to show support for a pride event that's been years in the making and had government support. We should unite to confront this newfound alliance between conservative forces in the Vatican and right-wing extremists in the Italian government. ▼

Editorial



Exercise your mind

by Barbara A. Brenner

Just about every day, it seems, someone proudly announces to me that she or he has signed up to do some walk, run, or mountain climb to raise money for "the fight against breast cancer." Because these folks know that I'm both a woman living with breast cancer and a breast cancer activist, I think they expect me to be deliciously happy at their effort. But I'm not. These events are merely part of the breast cancer industry's new crusade to get thousands of people to sign up for activities without thinking too much – or at all – about the consequences of what they are doing.

The objective of these adventures is quite broad: to raise money for breast cancer. I don't know how much money all of these events together raise, and I don't think anyone does. But the amount raised in just one walk is probably a good indicator of how big the money pot is: The Avon Breast Cancer 3-Day walk from Los Angeles to Santa Barbara, California, in 1998 raised \$7,793,000. Assuming that the Avon 3-Days subsequently held in three other cities raised as much, that's over \$31 million "for breast cancer" last year alone. And this year the event has expanded further to include Boston, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C.

But there is less to this story than meets the eye. In terms of who participates, how the money is raised, how much is distributed, and which services are funded, the Avon walks are a striking example of the way corporations play on legitimate concerns about breast cancer to get people to do things that are far less meaningful than they appear.

To register for an Avon walk, you have to be at least 17 years of age, have health insurance, and agree to raise (or donate) \$1,800 before the walk starts. While Avon also solicits corporate sponsorships, the vast majority of the funds are raised through individual

pledges. In the Los Angeles-Santa Barbara walk, more than \$7 million was raised by the walkers. In exchange, participants get to walk 15 to 25 miles a day, sleep in tents, and have the wonderful sense of accomplishing something very difficult with other people who are equally committed to the cause.

This method of fund-raising – requiring participants in the event to raise a considerable amount of money – proved successful with the California AIDS Ride Presented by Tanqueray and is now used by a number of breast cancer outdoor adventures. The entry fee (and, in the case of the Avon walks, the health insurance requirement) are powerful barriers to the participation of any but the most privileged in society. While poor women might well benefit as much from the physical exercise and camaraderie that comes out of these strenuous physical events, the entry requirements are prohibitive for them.

There is also the question of how the \$7.79 million dollars raised in the L.A. walk was distributed. As it turns out, only \$5.02 million went to breast cancer organizations. The rest – 36 percent of the money raised – was spent on what the event producer characterizes as "walker support," administrative (including the producer's fee), and marketing expenses. That means that for every dollar a walker receives in pledges, less than 65 cents gets anywhere near a breast cancer organization. Whether you are a walker asking for pledges or a person who has pledged funds to support a walker, wouldn't it make far more sense to give your dollars directly to the breast cancer organizations you want to support?

Finally, there's the issue of what programs benefit from the funds that do end up at breast cancer organizations. Until this year, Avon distributed the net proceeds (the amount left over after the event producer's

expenses and fees are paid) to the National Alliance of Breast Cancer Organizations (NABCO). For a fee (a spokesperson declined to disclose the amount), NABCO redistributed the remaining funds to organizations promoting "breast health" awareness for underserved women. (Starting this year, Avon distributed the money directly and they've added funds to medical research. Avon also gave a \$1 million grant to NABCO.)

What this amounts to is millions of dollars devoted to encouraging women to do breast self-exams and to get mammograms and clinical breast exams. None of the funds may be used for actual screening; the money can only be used for programs that encourage women to get screening. And not a dime can be used to make sure that these underserved women get treatment if it turns out they have breast cancer. In fact, I'm not aware of any outdoor adventure that raises money to make sure women who have breast cancer get treatment. Nor is any of the funding guaranteed to be paid to organizations in the communities where the walks take place.

Indeed, it is our turn. Make a difference; change the course of history. Think before you agree to do (or sponsor someone for) an outdoor fund-raising adventure. Ask where the money will end up, and refuse to support events if you can't get the answer to that question or if the answer you get doesn't suit you. Then, if you're inclined to walk for the cause, put on your sneakers and head to a local breast cancer organization to volunteer. ▼

Barbara A. Brenner is executive director of San Francisco-based Breast Cancer Action. This first appeared in BCA's March/April 2000 newsletter. Reprinted with permission.

LETTERS

Don't forget one So. Cal race

Wayne Friday missed one very important Congressional race in his column on those which are contested [Our Man Friday, May 25]. Our 49th Congressional District in San Diego is currently held by Brian Bilbray (R) and is being contested by Susan Davis (D). This is not a safe seat for the Republicans. Bilbray's record on issues regarding everything from the environment to his party line support of Clinton's impeachment make him less and less representative of his district. Ms. Davis has done a great job for us in the California Legislature, has a voting record that is compatible with her constituents and is favored as well by the large gay and lesbian community in this congressional district. Don't write off this race, we need Susan Davis in Congress.

D. Blake
San Diego, California

More on congressional race

I am disappointed that Wayne Friday, in his May 25 column under the headline, "Battle on for control of next Congress," neglected to mention one of the best prospects for Democrats to pick up a congressional seat, the 49th district here in San Diego. Just two years ago, openly lesbian City Councilmember Christine Kehoe fell 12 percent behind incumbent Brian Bilbray in the June primary and lost by only 2 percent in the general election. Kehoe represents about 16 percent of the congressional district's population. State Assemblywoman Susan Davis represents more than twice as many of the district's voters, and she fell only 4 percent behind Bilbray in the March primary and has been raising more campaign funds than him.

Davis, who formerly was president of the San Diego League of Women Voters and member of the San Diego Unified School District board, has a long history of service and a very positive profile here in this community, as well as a 100 percent voting record on LGBT issues. Incumbent Bilbray campaigns in the LGBT community and then supported Proposition 22 and opposes the Employment Non-Discrimination Act.

It is crucial that LGBT folks throughout California and the United States be aware of this important race and contribute towards Ms. Davis's victory, which would be a victory for all of us. If you or your readers would like more information, I suggest you visit her Web site at <http://members.home.com/davis2000/>, phone (858) 616-6448, or write P.O. Box 84049, San Diego, CA 92138-4049.

Brian Polejes
San Diego, California

A new low for Montel

Naval recruiter turned talk show host Montel Williams sunk to new and dangerous lows. His show that aired on Memorial Day sent a clear, undeniable message to adolescents that they should conform to norms in terms of gender identity.

In the show, adolescent boys with feminine physical attributes and "tomboy" girls were humiliated on television when Montel cut off chunks of their hair in public, telling one 13-year-old boy that girls should be attracted to him so he should therefore not try to look like a girl. He questioned a girl's sexual preference on national television asking whether she is attracted to boys. He told a minor girl that boys won't be interested in her unless she starts looking feminine. He sent the teens to visit his stylists and told the audience that one girl had difficulty working with stylists because she complained and resisted the make over. At the end of the show, I saw no smiles, only sullen looks on the kids' faces.

What Montel failed to mention is that issues surrounding gender identity are the biggest contributing factors to teen suicide. What he failed to mention is that although the kids' parents gave their permission for what was perceived by some as public humiliation, minors have no rights to engage in a legal contract and therefore cannot give legal permission to have an adult change their masculine or feminine images. What Montel failed to mention is how much money was made by airing this episode.

E-mails can be sent to <http://www.montel-show.com>.

Don Miller
San Francisco

Watch those credit card statements

I am a former member of Market Street Gym, having canceled my membership via registered mail last November. I recently noticed charges to my credit card from Gold's Gym. Upon researching my statements, I discovered I had been charged for a monthly membership six times between April 10 and May 6. I have contacted the manager/owner at the new Gold's Gym on numerous occasions and faxed my bank statement, copies of my cancellation letter, and the return receipt. After waiting more than two weeks for a credit to be issued, I contacted Gold's Gym manage-

ment. Although I have received no credit as yet, they assure me that the credit has been processed.

I just want to give a "heads up" to those in the community who may also be charged in error. They, like me, may not always be diligent at checking their statements. It is a shame that a company would process charges when they are not sure of the validity of charge. It is an even worse commentary on the professionalism of a company that would take so long to rectify a problem even when it has been proven to them that they are in error.

Daniel Scott
San Francisco

Archbishop comfortable with bigotry?

With regard to the upcoming World Pride Roma 2000 celebration planned for this summer in Rome, www.data1ounge.com reported in its Friday, May 12 issue that: "Archbishop William Levada of San Francisco, who has inflamed relations between the city's gay community and the Catholic Church in his diocese, fanned the flames by warning Rome that gay militants would pose as priests and bishops and seek to ridicule the Church."

I can only imagine the public cry of outrage that would be generated if instead of "gay militants" he had said "blacks" or "Hispanics." However, because it is only the GLBT community which he is denigrating, it appears that he is totally comfortable with his bigotry.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (Liguori Publications, copyright 1994, United States Catholic Conference, Inc. - Libreria Editrice Vaticana) states in paragraph 2358: "The number of men and women who have deep-seated homosexual tendencies is not negligible. They do not choose their homosexual condition; for most of them it is a trial. They must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity. Every sign of unjust discrimination in their regard should be avoided."

Unless you consider his comments as treating us with "respect, compassion, and sensitivity," it appears that Archbishop Levada does not even accept the tenants of the Catechism. I find these actions on the part of a person who is supposedly a servant of Christ, to be the epitome of arrogance.

At times like these, I am ashamed to admit that I am a Roman Catholic.

Robert R. Van Etten
San Francisco

Be not afraid of ACT UP/SF

ACT UP/San Francisco is just trying to save innocent people from the useless, poisonous drugs being manufactured for "AIDS victims." They are not the ones we should be afraid of here.

Jen Blum
San Francisco

Who's cloudy now?

Regarding Out There's mini-report on the Joni Mitchell concert at the Chronicle/Concord Pavilion Saturday, May 13: I think the boys "fell out of their chairs" not over the Chronicle's "little man" icon but probably from what they imbibed.

The opening orchestral "10 minutes" was not Stravinsky.

Here's a note from Peter Erskine, Joni's drummer on the BSN (Both Sides Now) tour courtesy of Joni's official Web site, www.jonimitchell.com:

"Just a short note concerning the overture; (prompted by no one seeming to recognize it, as well as one Web site reviewer/contributor claiming the music had 'no relevance' to the evening...). The piece has great relevance, as it was chosen by Joni (and Larry [Klein, musical director] and Vince [Mendoza, conductor and arranger]): it is Claude Debussy's 'Nuages' ('Clouds') from his 'Nocturnes' suite for orchestra... the relevance coming not only as a musical statement, but also from the title ('Both Sides Now... Clouds'). It is meant to set a tone for the rest of the evening."

Richard Goldman
San Francisco

Would adopt Elián's dad

In his letter ["Force never heals wounds," May 11], Douglas Matley states that Elián González is the property of a "fascist state and the state owned parent." Elián at this moment belongs to nobody. But his father is the only one, at his early age, to decide where the child is going to live.

With all due respect to my good, progressive Cuban friends, the relatives in Miami did not have any right to try to keep the child from meeting with his father. I disagree in the way that INS handled the situation at the end. But Janet Reno did not have many choices. And besides, scenes like the one at the Lázaro González family are common with other immigrants that are not as lucky as Elián. Ask any Haitian in Miami.

Fidel Castro is passé. He should resign and let a

next page ►

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progressive government take over the rule in Cuba. Juan González should send little Elián to Spain with his stepmother and little half brother, where he will be educated in his own language and have access to socialized medicine. Then go to Puerto Rico and study diplomacy.

His father Juan should stay here. I will be more than glad to adopt him.

Jorge Rodríguez-Sanabria
San Francisco

Anti-shelter flyer disputed

Recently I received a flyer against plans to establish a 24-hour youth shelter at 2500 Market. I live on Market and Castro and had adopted the triangular park in front of 2500 Market picking up trash every day for a year while I was a gym member at City Athletic Club.

I never found feces and found few needles, two problems exaggerated in the flyer. I think that these and other problems mentioned like stepping over sleeping people on the sidewalks could be solved by promoting the shelter at that location.

The Ark of Refuge is well qualified to run the shelter, providing counseling and referrals to services these people need. Though it's true not all people can change, the Ark has a great track record of finding jobs for those whose lives can be affected so that they could make a fresh start.

This project deserves to be given a chance in spite of those few selfish, mean spirited people who would use any scare tactic they can think of to bully the neighborhood to their point of view.

Bob Burnside
San Francisco

Two sides to every coin

In response to the guest opinion, letter, and article regarding Ark of Refuge that were printed in the May 4 and 11 issues.

I am a resident of the Castro area who attended all the public meetings from the very first one: the one where Supervisors Mark Leno and Leslie Katz tried to push through a 24-hour shelter without notifying all the neighbors concerned. That very first meeting was filled with many upset residents who did not know of the meeting until the same day it occurred.

What I am concerned most about is why is Ark of Refuge the only service provider willing to run this future adult residential facility?

Ark of Refuge ran the Eureka Valley Recreation Center as an emergency drop-in shelter during the winter months of 1999 that left a very bad feeling in the neighborhood. Even now, over a year after the EVRC emergency shelter was closed, there are still numerous problems in the neighborhood and some (not all) are a result of last winter in addition to the transporting of the targeted group to the temporary shelter at 27th and Church, and from EVRC. The Noe Valley residents are not seeing any of the problems the Castro experiences because they are being averted by the youth being transported to them, so the magnet effect is not occurring in their neighborhood.

After the EVRC shelter closed, neither Ark of Refuge nor City Hall have done much to help clean up the area. We have been lied to before and I personally do not trust anything that either Ark of Refuge or Supervisor Leno may have to say regarding this matter.

If Ark of Refuge or Supervisor Leno would apologize for some of the mishaps that did occur and try to help resolve and clean things up, maybe then there would not be such despair. To this date, they both deny there was anything wrong and that all went smoothly as far as they were concerned.

As for the guest opinion in defense of the Ark, the writers start off by attacking the relatively recent influx of wealth into the neighborhood. This has nothing to do with a qualified service provider. It's a fact that the Castro has been an affluent neighborhood for many, many years. It has always been a high-priced area that was not always affordable by everyone. Don't go blaming people who have worked hard and are prospering for the despair of others. San Francisco as a whole is having a booming economy, prospering in every way as well as real estate values that are skyrocketing. The cost of living in San Francisco is among the highest of any city in the entire country. You blame those who have prospered, but why not put some of the real blame on some of the senseless spending methods by City Hall and the Board of Supervisors. Like the recent vote that our supervisors took to have private offices in their districts, as Supervisor Tom Ammiano wanted. If it had passed, that would have been 11 offices costing the city \$8,580,000. Why doesn't Ammiano take the money he wanted to spend on himself and the other supervisors and help the homeless and needy? The city just spent close to \$300 million retrofitting and refurbishing City Hall and I agree with Supervisor Barbara Kaufman, that's where their offices should be.

In closing, I would like to see an adult residential facility work in the Castro area, but I am wondering if 2500 Market Street is still the right place. If we can find a qualified service provider that feels the facility itself is workable, a service provider that will not only care for the targeted group, but who also cares about the neighborhood, the surrounding neighbors and businesses that will be affected, then let's move forward.

Most importantly, we need a service provider who is willing to work with the neighborhood as well as take action should trouble start to happen. We need a service provider that won't make excuses nor wait till it's too late to fix the problem and in turn let the magnet effect take place.

Neil Uscier
San Francisco

Akin to Santa Claus

It is very clear that your entire newspaper has a personal dislike of ACT UP/SF ["Judge reins in ACT UP/SF" May 11] and can't keep that bias out of your reporting.

The author, Terry Beswick writes, ACT UP/SF "...formed the trust in secret last November, and purchased the \$760,000 Market Street building." Since when did any individuals or corporations announce their private financial affairs, especially when endeavoring to own prime real estate in San Francisco?

Our queer community deserves to hear all aspects of the AIDS issues, which side we choose to believe is then our personal choice. However, to blindly believe that the pharmaceutical companies have anything but profits in mind is akin to believing in Santa Claus.

The billion dollar drug companies push all kinds of unsafe products through, just three weeks ago, look at the scandal involving Rezulin and don't forget phen-phen. It was killing thousands of people, but had been deemed "safe" by the FDA.

AZT was banned in the 1960s as too toxic, but they feed it like Pez to our gay brothers.

While I may not agree with all of ACT UP/SF's tactics, I applaud their efforts to not sit back and ingest the lovely diet of 40 or more pills a day, without questioning why.

Reverend Shelby Katz
West Hollywood, California

A virus here, a virus there

Whilst the original AIDS virus is said to have jumped out of Africa, to infect the homosexuals and intravenous drug users of the West, we now have another form of the virus, HIV-1 subtype C, which is affecting mainly heterosexuals in sub-Saharan Africa. How convenient that we now have viruses that apparently choose where they want to reside and respect borders.

Chris Phillips
San Francisco

What's the beef?

So what's your beef with ACT UP/San Francisco? Is it that they run a successful business that provides a valuable public service to the community? That they don't discriminate against their clients even if they openly disagree on certain issues? That their business chips away at one of the central hypocrisies of our time - that certain drugs are illegal, but you can get them anytime, anywhere you want? That they've figured out how to live an unconventional lifestyle and make a living at the same time? That they set up their business as a trust, rather than a nonprofit, so that they could legally advocate for the political causes they believe in? Is the problem that they're intelligent?

Okay, you don't agree with them about HIV/AIDS. Certainly, a difference of opinion on such an emotional issue is a good reason to vilify them. But several ACT UP/SF members have tested positive for HIV or have AIDS, at least as defined by the AIDS mainstream. At a minimum, do you recognize the right of those who have been diagnosed with a fatal illness to point out they're alive, healthy, and not living their lives in fear of sex, illness, and death?

It seems an additional objection to ACT UP/SF is that they're mean to that nice Martin Delaney. I've heard that history will prove the villain, and, in this case, I'm sure it's true.

In the meantime, I applaud ACT UP/SF for their successful countercultural lives, their commitment, their passion and compassion, their courage, and most of all, for living up to that immortal exhortation of Tina Turner, "Break every rule."

David Fink
San Francisco

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POLITICS

State GOP turning its back on Quackenbush

by Wayne Friday

Barely two years ago state Insurance Commissioner **Chuck Quackenbush**, having easily just won re-election in 1998, looked to California Republican Party members like an exceptionally attractive candidate for either governor or U.S. senator in 2002. Being one of only two Republicans to survive the Democratic landslide in the state – along with Secretary of State **Bill Jones** – Quackenbush, with his easy re-election, his movie-star good looks, youth, and easily-recognizable name, was almost a sure bet to be the GOP nominee against Governor **Gray Davis** the next time around, particularly since Jones ceased to become a Republican Party favorite because he bolted **George W. Bush** earlier this year to back **John McCain's** ill-fated presidential candidacy. Though never really personally popular with many in his party – some thought him to be aloof, if not arrogant – it was Quackenbush that operatives within the state GOP thought might possibly get the Republicans back on the winning track as they looked to the 2002 elections.

Not any more. Having curried favor with some of the large insurance companies that he was in fact elected to regulate, Quackenbush is accused of having accepted millions in donations, in lieu of fines, with the money having ended up in the bank accounts of foundations that the insurance commissioner himself established. Much of the money apparently went to political consultants who then produced high-priced television commercials featuring Quackenbush, and some of the so-called fines allegedly went to organizations that had nothing to do with earthquake damage or the victims for which it was intended.

Quackenbush is now the focus of investigations by the state Senate, the state attorney general, and the Fair Political Practices Commission. The attorney general's probe of Quackenbush's activities involves alleged civil violations though several criminal investigators are also looking at the actions of the commissioner's office.

Is the California Republican Party now rushing to the defense of their once-promising political star? No way. Indeed, most of the state GOP officials now believe Quackenbush is political toast. None of the GOP machinery has come forward as of yet to defend Quackenbush, and many are said to be quietly urging him to resign, saving himself and the party any further embarrassment.

Quackenbush and his politically-connected wife, are, of course, claiming that he is the victim of a Democratic Party-inspired "political witch-hunt." Despite blaming others for his political problems, some Republicans in Sacramento will tell you that it was Quackenbush's ignorance, if not his self-promoting dishonesty, that brought on his current political problems. Indeed, GOP state Senator **Ray Haynes** of Riverside, one of the most partisan Republi-

cans in Sacramento, last week publicly stated that "in politics, there is the Evil Party and the Stupid Party – Quackenbush is a card-carrying member of the Stupid Party." Haynes stopped short, however, of saying that the commissioner had done anything illegal or of asking for his resignation.

Others within the GOP, however, are less charitable, with some saying that if the combatant commissioner keeps stalling, attempting to blame subordinates for his growing problems, or continues to refuse to cooperate with the Senate Insurance Committee when he responds to a June 5 subpoena that it issued to him, some of these

Republicans might support impeachment efforts against the once rising star of their party.

To be sure, some Sacramento Republicans, realizing that their state party is already in deep enough water, have apparently had it with what they see as Quackenbush's sleazy politics and his weeks in Sacramento are reportedly numbered.

Not to worry. I'm sure some big insurance company, ever in his debt, would be happy to offer Quackenbush a lofty, six-figure salary anytime he is ready to face the fact that he likely no longer has a future in elective politics.

Politics and people

Southern California will be host this summer to at least three national nominating conventions – the Democratic Party will formally nominate Vice President **Al Gore** for president at its Los Angeles convention in August; the national Reform Party likely will pick **Patrick Buchanan** as its standard-bearer in Long Beach in late July; and the national Libertarian Party will probably nominate **Harry Browne**, its 1996 nominee, at its four-day convention in Anaheim at the end of this month (June 29-July 3).



State Senator Jackie Speier

Look for state Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-San Mateo), the chair of the powerful Senate Insurance Committee, currently probing the beleaguered Chuck Quackenbush's problems, to run for that very insurance commissioner post in 2002.

San Francisco County court officials, still short some half dozen judges, are patiently awaiting Governor **Gray Davis's** judicial appointments here.

Supervisor **Leland Yee** to kick off his campaign for supe in District 4 this Saturday, June 3, at a noon kickoff rally at the Sunset

Rec Center, 28th & Lawton (978-0915 for info); Yee likely will face tough competition from popular political consultant **Tom Hsieh Jr.**

And Senator **Dianne Feinstein's** gay and lesbian supporters holding a cocktail party fundraiser for the senator tonight (June 1, 6-8 p.m.) at the home of **Michael Acabado** and **Michael Domrowski** at 160 Yerba Buena, with special guest actress/Broadway star **Rita Moreno** (\$250; 705-8711 for info).

Incidentally, San Francisco's Parkside Elementary School will soon be renamed for the popular Feinstein, a longtime San Francisco resident and former mayor, thanks to a proposal by school board member **Juanita Owens**.

Meanwhile, San Francisco school teachers, long underpaid, were less than thrilled to learn that the school board would be paying the newly hired district superintendent, **Arlene Ackerman**, recruited from Washington, D.C., an attractive \$197,000 annual salary, plus expenses; Ackerman reports to work August 1.

And speaking of big money – really big money, the same night that the Democratic Party raised that whopping \$26.5 million at a party in D.C. last week, the national Republicans held a similar party a few blocks away where they picked up a piddling \$14 million, following a GOP party last month where they raised another \$21.3 million – yep, "it's the economy, stupid!" (and what an economy it must be).

The highest court of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) ruled last week that the denomination's constitution does not prevent ministers from blessing same-sex unions so long as it is clear that the ceremony is in no way comparable to a traditional marriage. The court also ruled that the denomination's laws do not bar openly gay people from seeking the ministry. Once a candidate for the ministry is ordained, however, Presbyterian Church law requires "fidelity in marriage or chastity in singleness."

George W. Bush claims to be "pro-life." Since January 17, 1995, the day he took office as governor of Texas, 127 prisoners have been executed in his state, or an average of one execution every two weeks; and Dubya says he has "full confidence" that every last one of them was guilty and deserving of their fate.

Worried that Bush will be the next president of the United States? So am I, but Al Gore and his advisors keep saying this is far from over and assured Democratic leaders last week that this campaign only truly gets serious after the nominating conventions. For that matter, it is true that some of those very pollsters who now have Bush ahead still say that they think Gore will emerge the eventual winner in November. Go figure.

Famed lesbian comedy star **Ellen DeGeneres** might not make it as grand marshal of the June 25 San Francisco Pride Parade, but she will be appearing in concert that evening at the Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa and a lot of her local fans will be in attendance (707-546-3600 for tix and info).

And how was your week? ▼

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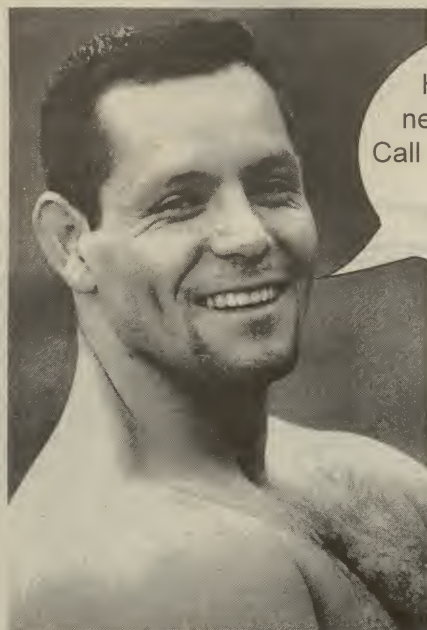


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Don't be fooled by Al Gore hoopla

by Dale Carpenter

With increasing frequency and intensity, some gay groups and leaders will try to work us into a lather over the presidential candidacy of Al Gore. But Gore isn't worth the contrived excitement.

Like Bill Clinton, he has smothered us with soothing words but has delivered little substance. On issue after issue, he is either indistinguishable from his Republican opponent, or takes a sympathetic-sounding stand on important matters on which he has no credibility, or supports measures that are no more than pleasant gestures.

On gay marriage, Gore's position is identical to George W. Bush's: both candidates oppose it. But since Gore has helped implement his opposition to gay marriage, his actual record is worse than Bush's.

Gore supported (and still supports) the Defense of Marriage Act, the 1996 law that bars federal recognition of same-sex marriages. DOMA has inspired dozens of "little DOMA" laws at the state level as legislators take advantage of its provision allowing states to refuse to recognize same-sex marriages performed elsewhere. That has meant state-by-state guerrilla warfare, putting gay civil rights groups on the de-

fensive across the country. Gore's pious announcement that he now opposes these little DOMA proposals, like California's recent Proposition 22, is more than we should have to sit still for.

With so many choices, it's hard to say what the most shameful moment of the Clinton-Gore administration has been on gay issues. If it wasn't DOMA, perhaps it was the broken promise to lift the ban on gay military service. The "compromise" the administration adopted - the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy - is widely acknowledged to have made things worse for gay personnel.

Apologists for Gore would say DADT was Bill Clinton's fault, or more likely Congress', but that Gore had nothing to do with it. That's the point. Throughout the past seven years, when the administration really cared about something (like the North American Free Trade Agreement), Gore sallied forth publicly to slay the administration's foes (like Ross Perot). Yet he was conspicuously silent when the public furor over the military ban arose: no speeches, no high-profile debates on *Larry King Live*, no lobbying Congress.

Gore remained silent until last fall when, faced with a strong challenge from Bill Bradley, who had taken a principled stand against DADT, Gore announced for the first time that he too opposed it. Thus, while Gore looks better on this issue than Bush (who supports DADT), his acquiescence to it while in a position of considerable influence makes his actual record worse.

Given his sorry track record on this issue, Gore simply can't be trusted to make a real effort to end the ban. And changing the policy will take considerable work because, thanks to Clinton, it is now enshrined into federal law. President Gore will give us lip service but nothing more. Whoever's elected, DADT will stay put.

Gore says he supports laws banning employment discrimination against gays. Yet, while his party controlled the government between the 1992 and 1994 elections, no action was taken to pass such a law. Gore himself did nothing. The Senate, over which he nominally presides, didn't even hold a hearing on an employment bill until Republicans took control. Gore is entitled to no credibility on the issue.

He also says he backs federal hate crimes legislation. Put aside the fact that such legislation is op-

posed by a wide spectrum of gay civil rights advocates. Under recent decisions, a federal hate crimes law may well be unconstitutional as beyond the scope of Congress' limited powers. Even if it is ever enforced, however, there's no evidence it would actually deter crimes. Thus, Gore's support for this dubious law amounts to a proclamation that he doesn't like hate crimes. Well, nobody does.

If they can't make a persuasive positive case for Gore, some will try to make a negative case for him by frightening us with nightmares of GOP control. But look at the record: We've had a GOP Congress for

five years now. Most of the anti-gay proposals made during that time have failed thanks to an alliance of gay-friendly Republicans and Democrats. The anti-gay measures that passed - DOMA and DADT - obviously didn't need a Republican administration to become law.

Then they'll give us a parade of horrors about what might happen to the Supreme Court if Gore loses. This is the most overwrought argument of all. Appointments to the Supreme Court are rare and have notoriously unpredictable consequences. It was, after all, four Republican appointees who formed the core of the six-justice majority in the most favorable decision for gay civil rights in the court's history, striking down Colorado's Amendment 2. The Clinton-Gore Justice Department refused even to file a brief to support gay equality in that case.

If what you really like about Al Gore is his fondness for having the government spend your money, his business-as-usual plan for Social Security, his opposition to real-alistic school choice for poor families, and his fetish for "the environment," he's your guy.

If your primary concern is gay equality, on the other hand, perhaps a case could be made that paper support from Gore on some issues is marginally better than paper opposition from Bush on some issues. But it's a weak case, hardly worth the sound and fury for Gore that's about to be inflicted upon us. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached care of this publication or at OutRight@aol.com.

Gay youth

◀ page 1

ty for San Franciscans to regain their neighborhoods," he added. "For District 6, I think it's important to be aware of the diversity of the area and embrace that and keep that. So often the different neighborhoods and the diversity gets lost in one generalization."

City voters will choose supervisors by district this November.

For his broader view, Isner has one goal: to return city government to the voters.

"It's something I really have

trouble with, the way City Hall ignores the positions of the voters. It begs the question, 'Who are you answering to?'"

Specific plans of Isner's include increasing Muni service and reliability, adding more affordable housing, and establishing partnerships between service providers, merchants, residents, and the city.

Isner's campaign - which he said will refuse money from special interest groups - welcomes donations and volunteers. For more information about his platform or to get involved, call (415) 313-3727, or visit www.dennisisner.com. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Another hateful assault

by Jane Warner

Harvey Milk Plaza, May 22, 9:40 p.m.: A man reported that while walking through Harvey Milk Plaza, a group of five to six teenagers approached him, one of whom asked, "Hey faggot, do you have a quarter?" The man said no and the teenagers started to punch and kick him. The victim fended off the suspects by screaming. The attackers — described as Asian males between the ages of 15 and 16 — were last seen running westbound on Market Street toward Collingwood. The victim refused treatment for a swollen cheek bone.

Penny pinchers

Hartford at 17th Street, May 27, 1:10 a.m.: While getting out of their parked car at their residence on Hartford Street, two women were approached by two men, one of whom said, "Give me your keys."

Not understanding what he had said, the 51-year-old woman hesitated. The armed robber pistol-whipped her, knocking her unconscious to the sidewalk with a deep cut above her left eye. The other woman threw down her canvas bag containing \$15 and a credit card. The robbers picked up the purse and the woman's keys and were last seen running northbound on Hartford toward 17th Street.

Suspect number one is described as African American, 18-20 years old, 6 feet 2 inches tall,

weighing 180 pounds, wearing a dark puffy jacket with dark pants, carrying a gun in his right hand. Suspect number two is described as African American, 18-20 years old, 6 feet tall, weighing 200 pounds, wearing a dark jacket and dark pants.

The injured woman was taken to the hospital where she received stitches for a 4 inch laceration above her eye.

Pick-up artist

300 block of Eureka, May 23, 1:30 p.m.:

A man who met another man in the Castro and let him stay in his apartment for a week received a phone call from the bank wanting verification of a check made out to his new guest for \$250. The man told the bank the check was a fraud. A look through his checkbook revealed several checks missing. About a half an hour later, his roommate returned home and the man called police. The suspect denied stealing the checks, but a search by police found one of the missing checks in his pants pocket. Booked for possession of stolen property and for a parolee-at-large warrant was Adam Johnson, 30.

Flaming john

Pond at 17th, May 22, 3:50 a.m.: Firefighters responded to a house fire on Pond Street and evacuated several residents in the

area. The fire was quickly brought under control with no injuries reported. A preliminary investigation determined that a portable toilet used by a construction crew had been set on fire, which ignited the house next door. The flames also melted the rear of a car parked nearby. Thousands of dollars in damage were reported; there are no known suspects.

Working radio, clean hair

Walgreens, 2145 Market Street, May 27, 12:35 p.m.:

A man who had been ordered to stay out of the store for past shoplifting arrests walked into the shop, grabbed several batteries, and ran out the door. A chase of the suspect was unsuccessful. About four hours later, the man returned, took several bottles of shampoo, and ran out the door. Security gave chase but lost the man on Market Street. The thief is described as a white male, 35-40 years old, 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighing 110 pounds, with a thin build, blond hair, and wearing a long sleeved flannel shirt, black pants, and a tan baseball cap. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 679-1827.



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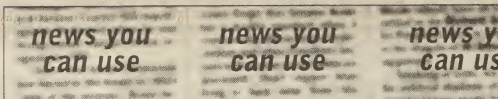


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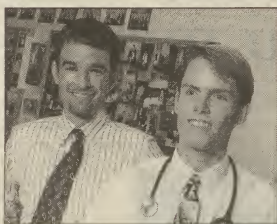
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Vatican anti-gay inquisition continues

by Bob Roehr

The Vatican has stepped up its modern-day inquisition of gays and lesbians. An American nun and priest who created a ministry to the gay community were officially silenced on May 20 at meetings in Vatican City.

Sister Jeannine Gramick and Father Robert Nugent founded New Ways Ministry in 1977 to reconcile homosexuality with the Roman Catholic Church. But the church hierarchy has reacted with increasing vitriol.

In 1984 Cardinal James A. Hickey, archbishop of Washington, ordered them to formally break with New Ways. He said that any further pastoral work with the community also must include "the church's teaching regarding the intrinsic evil of homosexual acts."

The pair severed their official ties with New Ways but continued to write and speak as individuals. Last July the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the Vatican, the successor to the medieval Inquisition, "permanently prohibited [the two] from any pastoral work involving homosexual persons."

Now the Vatican has barred them completely from writing or speaking about homosexuality, or about the disciplinary action taken against them by the church.

"I choose to obey the voice of God within me, and in this in-



Sister Jeannine Gramick

stance the voice of God is saying that I should not collaborate with my own oppression," said Gramick in a written statement. She compared her position to that of a battered spouse.

It was not clear if Nugent will accept the verdict from Rome.

"The record of the Vatican's mishandling of this case and of their fear of discussion speaks of great dysfunction," said Frank DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry. "If the church cannot accept criticism from its members, that is a signal that the institution is very weak and in deep crisis."

Marianne Buddy, executive director of Dignity USA, said, "The gay and lesbian community is going to be further devastated by the news, further angered and alienated from the church."

While some could argue that disciplining clerics is a matter internal to the church, the same could not be

said concerning attempts to impose their will upon Italian civil society.

On May 26 Cardinal Camillo Ruini, president of the Italian Conference of Bishops, insisted that the World Gay Pride 2000 festival not take place in Rome July 1-9. He said it was insulting to let the event take place during the "Holy Year." His remarks capped off an escalating series of denunciations from the church calling for cancellation of the event.

"I find Cardinal Ruini's comments most disturbing," said Franco Grillini, president of Arcigay, the leading gay rights organization in Italy. He said the whole point of World Gay Pride 2000 was to confront discrimination against gays by organizations such as the church.

"Freedom cannot be canceled just because of Holy Year," said communist deputy Oliviero Diliberto. The center-left government, shaky in the best Italian political tradition, has pledged to let the festival take place.

The same day as Ruini's eruption, the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission faxed the pope an invitation to present a keynote address at a conference entitled Sexual Diversity, Religious Intolerance, and Strategies for Change, on July 3.

They wrote, "It would be tremendously significant for the Holy See to demonstrate that human rights are truly universal, embracing all peoples." ▼

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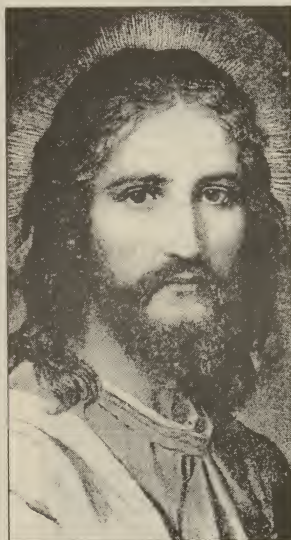
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Rome Pride threatened

by Katie Szymanski

Take last year's Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence conflict with the Catholic Church, and pretend that Mayor Willie Brown sided with religion and canceled the event. Then imagine that he instead gave Castro Street to a group that espoused violence against all lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgenders. Multiply this scenario 100 times and you've got Rome, Italy, a city whose World Pride celebration is under attack and whose LGBT residents — many of whom have never been out of the closet — are rising up in fearful but excited protest.

"It feels like Stonewall," Deborah Oakley-Melvin, a San Francisco resident and World Pride organizer in Rome told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "I woke up this morning in my residential district and there were huge posters that said 'No Gay Pride' hanging on every street corner."

World Pride Roma — an event that is years in the making — was promised funding by Mayor Francesco Rutelli and was all set to kick off an international event of LGBT activists, artists, and revelers. But this week, under pressure from the Vatican — which has declared Pride week as their own Jubilee, a holy celebration — Rutelli revoked Rome's sponsorship of World Pride, forbidding the march and even threatening LGBT people's right to assemble during the period of July 1-9.

What's more, Rutelli's reasoning for revoking the funding — that the group doesn't have a permit — is a situation he created himself by granting that permit to the neo-fascists, who will host "Family Week" in the same area as scheduled Pride events. World Pride participants say that having

the neo-fascists present in Pride space is a situation just begging for a confrontation.

"Now, with the neo-Nazis given the permit, there is a very clear threat to gays that if they dare march, they'll get beat up," San Francisco resident and World Pride artist Gilbert Baker told the *B.A.R.* "The climate is more than intolerant right now," said Oakley-Melvin from her house in Rome. "You can feel it escalating on both sides. There's the excitement of having the event under these circumstances, and there's the growing anger of the opposition, which could very well become violent."

Oakley-Melvin has repeatedly stated that World Pride would take place regardless of Rome's government, which appears to have made its latest decision in favor of anti-gay sentiment.

Buckling to religious pressure is nothing new for governments, but in Rome, the Catholic opposition to Pride adopted a right-wing tactic, American-style. In *Messenger*, a well-read newspaper in Rome, San Francisco Archbishop William Levada is quoted as saying that San Francisco's Pride Parade stops at the cathedral so that LGBTs dressed as nuns, bishops, and popes can ridicule the Catholic Church. In fact, the parade does not even pass in front of San Francisco's cathedral.

"Obviously the Italian authorities have no idea what will happen," Levada said in *Messenger*. "Demonstrations of this kind are uncontrollable."

To further back up their message, Rome's Catholics used images of San Francisco Pride Parades and Halloween celebrations to demonstrate the "perversity" that would soon invade their own city.

"It's daunting what they face. The oppression is phenomenal,"

said Baker. "But there is unity like I've never seen in Rome. The movement is young, strong, and courageous, and World Pride is going to happen. They're ready to put their bodies on the line."

To help the LGBT movement in Rome — which has now become an international issue — many groups from the United States are getting on board, with Amnesty International, American ambassadors, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission all coming to the defense of World Pride.

IGLHRC is calling for Bay Area residents to join them in a demonstration outside the Italian Embassy today, June 1, at 11 a.m. at 2590 Webster Street. Urgent letters are also needed to pressure Rutelli to restore World Pride permits and funding he promised; letters should be faxed to the Honorable Francesco Rutelli at 39-06-678-4239.

"I hope people in America can see how this affects them," said Oakley-Melvin.

Baker agrees. "We have a legitimate gripe with the Catholic Church for fostering a climate that promotes violence," he said. "If we can all come together and succeed in just being there, it will give the movement an incredible lift." ▼

Information on Rome's World Pride events can be obtained by visiting www.worldpride2000.com. For more information on protesting Pride's cancellation, visit IGLHRC's site at www.iglhrc.org.

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Bingo returns to the Castro

by Katie Szymanski

If you're tired of your worn-out addictions or simply hungry for a new sport, then you owe your thanks to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence for reviving monthly bingo games in the Castro.

"Resurrection Bingo" begins tonight (Thursday, June 1) at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the games start at 7:30. Admission is \$12.

Resurrection Bingo will feature the traditional screaming of letter-

number combos as well as some surprise twists: expect celebrity ball-pullers, a halftime show, and a special "good luck gift" to the first 50 players through the door on opening night.

Of course, in the spirit of nunnery, the Sisters will split each night's profits between two local charities; applications are currently being accepted from nonprofit organizations that wish to provide bingo volunteers in exchange for a portion of bingo proceeds.

For more information on Resurrection Bingo, visit www.the-sisters.org or call (415) 552-0220. ▼

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Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting SUSTIVA. They tend to go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. If you have these symptoms, you should contact your doctor immediately to discuss your therapy. There have been a few reports of suicide, but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in cynomolgus monkeys given SUSTIVA. See Patient Information about SUSTIVA on the following pages.



Once Daily
SUSTIVATM
efavirenz

A color photograph of a man in a red sweater celebrating his 40th birthday. He is smiling broadly, looking down at a white birthday cake with '40' on it and several lit candles. He is surrounded by four friends (three women and one man) who are also smiling and looking at him. One woman is holding a small blue gift box. In the foreground, there are several wrapped gifts in blue and purple paper. The background is a warm, yellowish-gold color.

...So Life Goes On

References: 1. DPC Study #14, SUSTIVA ZDV/3TC versus IDV ZDV/3TC, ACTG 384, SUSTIVA/ARTI versus NF409/11
2. DPC Study 006, SUSTIVA ZDV/3TC versus IDV ZDV/3TC, ACTG 383, SUSTIVA/ARTI versus NF409/11
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**SUSTIVA™
(efavirenz)
capsules**

Patient Information about SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

A small number of patients have had severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Some patients have had thoughts of suicide and a few patients have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness. You should contact your doctor immediately if you think you are having these symptoms, so your doctor can decide whether you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after

you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have severe depression, strange thoughts or angry behavior. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**:

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**:

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°- 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

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6495-03/Rev. February, 2000

SLDN defamed in *Times* article on Winchell murder, officials say

by Bob Roehr

Tremors continue to radiate from the murder of Private First Class Barry Winchell 11 months ago at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. The most recent is a cover story on Calpernia Addams, who was dating Winchell at the time of his death. It appeared in the *New York Times Magazine* Sunday, May 28.

"An Inconvenient Woman," misrepresents and disparages the role the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network played in the case, SLDN officials said. It carried the subheading, "In order to turn the murdered soldier Barry Winchell into a martyr for gay rights, activists first had to turn his girlfriend, Calpernia Addams, back into a man."

The cover photo showed Addams, a pre-operative transsexual who lives as a woman, in a tank top. It contained sensationalized wording including "war widow" and "no poster boy."

Author David France, an editor at *Glamour* magazine, used a series of direct quotes in claiming that SLDN attorney Kathi Westcott and Nashville activist Rhonda White urged Addams to present herself as male to the media

to play up the gay-bashing angle of the murder.

The only problem was, the people supposedly involved in that conversation — Westcott, White, and Addams — all deny that it ever took place. They said that when the *Times* fact-checker called to verify the quotes. And still the *Times* printed it.

"We were distressed to read the story in advance and find that the article contains gross factual inaccuracies," the three wrote in a May 25 letter to the editor of the *Times*. They denied that anyone "suggested that Ms. Calpernia Addams self-identify as a man."

SLDN disputed the false claims in a statement released on May 28. It criticized the *Times* for its "unfounded and negative portrayal of SLDN."

Also released was a warm personal letter from Addams to Westcott recounting how SLDN assisted her through the ordeal. Addams closed by writing, "I do not think that I could have coped with Barry's death as I have without your and Rhonda's support."

The commander of Fort Campbell also heads up the elite 101st Airborne Division and traditionally adds a third star upon completion of the tour of duty. But that will not happen for Major General Robert T. Clark when he

departs on June 9, at least not yet.

Senior level military promotions are subject to approval by the Senate, normally a pro forma action. But the Pentagon worries that promoting Clark might lead to a hearing and questions on the anti-gay atmosphere that festered at Fort Campbell. An Army inspector general's report on the problems was postponed and is now due later in June.

Clark will make a lateral move to the prestigious job of vice director of the operations office for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, perhaps awaiting promotion if and when the controversy dies down.

SLDN continues to "raise our concerns about holding people accountable" for Winchell's murder and other anti-gay activity. "Problems continued even after the murder," said Stacey Sobel. "Leadership starts at the top. We really didn't feel that General Clark addressed those issues."

"We believe that there should be accountability, and we will continue to press on that," she said.

Winchell's mother, Pat Kutteles, has filed a wrongful death claim against the Army. Sobel said that SLDN "has never seen a case like this move forward before." So she has no sense of how it will proceed. ▼

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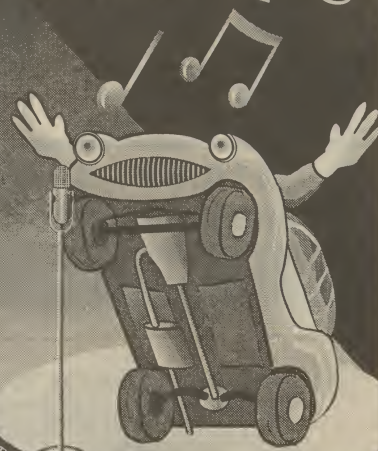
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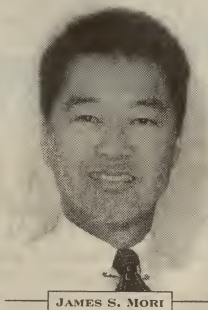


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Davis veto

◀ page 1

woman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), and others. Bay Area Democratic legislators, including Kuehl's fellow openly lesbian legislator, Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), also voted for the bill.

In his veto message, the governor noted he had signed into law a measure last year which mandated that many employees may use their sick leave to care for an ill child, parent, or spouse.

SB118, however, would have allowed workers to take up to 12 weeks unpaid leave from work "to care for an individual who depends on the employee for immediate care and support, who shares a common residence with the employee" - a definition which the governor believes would have extended the right to medical leave beyond domestic partners.

"This measure, while well-intentioned, extends that right far beyond what any other state has permitted to a relationship outside the family - specifically to individuals who live together to share expenses," said Davis in a statement, underlining the words, "outside the family."

Boyce Hinman, administrator of the Lambda Letters Project, which generates constituent e-mail and correspondence to representatives in the California Legislature on gay- and AIDS-related issues, took issue with governor's veto, and with CAPE's ambivalence.

"Our community has been accepting too little from the Democrats, too easily," Hinman said. "The 'go slow' approach, adding one item at a time [to the domestic partnership rights package], I

can understand. But the governor is vetoing one item at a time."

Davis did state that there were "portions of the bill" that he would be "pleased to work with the Legislature" in crafting a new bill in the next legislative session, in 2001.

Hayden legislative aide Michelle Yu complained that the governor "could have told us what his specific concerns were," adding that Hayden "wanted the domestic partnership coverage to be as broad as possible."

While Hayden's bill was supported by gay rights groups and labor unions, Yu noted that it was opposed by business lobbyists, who said that it would be too expensive for employers. "Basically, you know, we feel that he was not going to sign any measure expanding access to medical leave this year," she said.

Altered news release

Meanwhile, Eric Bauman, Davis's liaison to the lesbian and gay community and director of the governor's Los Angeles office, became embroiled in a dispute with gay activists angry over the veto.

No sooner had the governor issued his veto message than gay and lesbian activists were circulating it over the Internet, and one unknown activist altered the text before circulating it to various news groups, parenthetically inserting the words "domestic partners" after the phrase "individuals who live together to share expenses."

The altered message was unwittingly forwarded on to gay activists and media outlets by Doug Case, a volunteer administrator for a gay and lesbian news group based in San Diego (lgbt-politics@egroups.com), leading Bauman to issue a terse statement the

next day, May 25, condemning the "fraudulent" version of Davis's veto message, and complaining that news group administrators had not "taken the time" to check their facts before circulating the document.

"While our members would certainly have preferred that the governor sign this bill, we are outraged at the deceptive and probably illegal tactics used by some in our community in an attempt to sully the governor's outstanding reputation in our community, just because he does not agree with their position on the breadth of certain pieces of legislation," said Bauman.

Bauman's statement was not issued on the governor's letterhead, however, but instead from the Stonewall Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club in Los Angeles, of which Bauman is the president, and the statement failed to note that he was a top staff person and advisor to the governor - an oversight Bauman later called "a mistake."

Case circulated Bauman's statement the next day, prefacing it with a disclaimer that he does not have time to check all facts before circulating e-mails as a public service, and also noting Bauman's failure to state his dual affiliation with Stonewall and the governor's office, and leveling a counter-charge that Bauman himself was guilty of obfuscating the facts around the governor's veto in his own follow-up statement.

"He tries to walk the line and switch the hats whenever it's appropriate," commented CAPE's Harris on Bauman's dual allegiance, who noted that Bauman also sits on her board of directors. "He's very passionate on the issues, and working very hard to move the governor forward." ▼

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Zimbabwe's former president goes to jail

by S. Predrag

Zimbabwe's first president, Canaan Sodindo Banana, 64, has been ordered to report to jail in Harare to serve a one-year sentence on sexual assault and sodomy charges.

The Supreme Court in Harare ruled Monday, May 29, that Banana, a former Methodist minister, professor of theology, and father of four, should serve a one-year jail term for 11 counts of sexual offenses, including two counts of sodomy.

The country's highest court also ordered Banana, who ruled Zimbabwe from its independence in 1980 to 1987, to pay 250,000 Zimbabwean dollars (\$ 6,250 U.S.) as restitution to his former bodyguard, Jesta Dube. If Banana fails to pay, according to the court ruling, he will be forced to serve an additional two years in jail with hard labor.

On January 18, 1999, Banana was sentenced to 10 years in jail for homosexual assault charges, but the High Court in Harare suspended nine of the 10 years provided that he paid compensation to his victim and did not repeat the same offense during the following three years.

This sentence did not become effective because Banana appealed to the Supreme Court against both the sentence and the conviction, arguing that sodomy, according to the Zimbabwean constitution, was not against the law.

However, the court ruled Monday that, although the constitution did not consider sodomy to be a crime, the practice had been outlawed under common law.

Seduction testimony

The scandal involving Banana erupted in February of 1997, during the trial of his former security aide and police officer, Dube, who was sentenced to 10 years in jail for the 1995 murder of a fellow police officer who had tauntingly called him "Banana's wife."

Later, Dube claimed that he was allegedly raped by Banana in the Zimbabwean Statehouse. The court heard testimony from witnesses such as Banana's cook, gardener, and others with similar tales and accusations.

According to several witnesses, Banana used to lure his victims to the Statehouse, always using the same scenario: a game of cards, music, dancing, and then the big seduction scene.

Although Banana tried to reject all the accusations laid at his door, claiming that there was a "conspiracy against him," he was unsuccessful. His appeal was rejected by the Supreme Court on a 3-2 vote.

Furthermore, Chief Justice Anthony Gubbay said that the ex-president used "his immense superiority of status to beat down the resistance of a young and inexperienced" bodyguard and added that the accounts of sexual assaults by Banana were "a horrifying tale."

In the meantime, in May 1999, Banana, a former reverend with the Methodist Church, was defrocked following his conviction. The head of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe, Bishop Farai Chirisa, told journalists in Harare that Banana had been kicked out of the priesthood by a decision of the church elders.

"He is no longer a minister be-

cause of what happened ... the church took this decision," said the bishop who added that Banana "can never become a minister of a church again."

"As far as we are concerned," added Chirisa, "it is a dead issue and we are not prepared to discuss it any further."

Homosexuality attacked

Banana even tried to escape jail time by publicly attacking homosexuality as "deviant, abominable and wrong behavior." However, he got a fitting rebuke from the Gay and Lesbian Association of Zimbabwe (GALZ) leader, Keith Goddard, who sent him an open letter.

"You should hang your head in shame. ... As an African elder and as a man of the cloth," said Goddard in his letter, "you are expected to act with integrity."

Pointing out that "deviant behavior is that which harms others," Goddard asked, "Why should

a consensual sexual relationship between two people of the same sex be abominable when it is fulfilling and socially constructive?"

Goddard also remarked that it was ironic that Banana was castigating homosexuals when he himself was "convicted of engaging in homosexual activity" and added that "to describe [his] own kind as deviant and abominable is to define [himself] as a sellout."

He reminded Banana that "rumors of [his] homosexuality have abounded within the gay community for many years" and accused him of reinforcing prejudice against homosexuals and encouraging the persecution of homosexuals in Zimbabwe.

"Nevertheless, we have consistently maintained a policy never to out people, believing this to be highly dangerous in a homophobic climate which borders on hysteria," claimed Goddard, who at-

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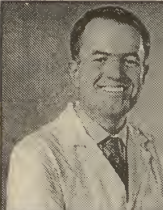
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Compromising HIV care with marketing of AIDS drugs

by Matt Sharp,
 Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Doctors' offices are full of peculiar people these days. Look around and a typical waiting room may have several primed and pressed business types, not appearing like they are seeking health care appointments at all. Made-up and hair-sprayed with expensive clothing and forced smiles, they check their day planners and talk on cell phones, armed with suitcases full of trademarked pens, cups, note pads, and drug samples.

These are the new marketing forces of the pharmaceutical industry: drug sales representatives, and they are seeking the ear of the care providers in order to get the word out about their products. The reps are inundating doctors' offices because this kind of marketing has become necessary due to increased competition in the field. There are 68,000 salespeople in the pharmaceutical industry today where in 1994 there were 36,000. Sales representatives are simply an additional part of the overall marketing strategy to sell drugs. And today, it is clear that drugs have become big business,

unfortunately increasing the overall cost of health care.

The issue has raised concerns by many physicians and patients before, but is just now reaching widespread attention through the mainstream media. In the May issue of *New York* magazine, the cover article concerns Celexia, a "me too" antidepressant drug that missed the U.S. market because of poor toxicity data that prevented its approval. Now, because of aggressive marketing by its maker, Forest Laboratories, the drug has cornered the antidepressant market. Clearly, AIDS is not the only area where pharmaceutical marketing is booming. Television and print media are full of slick advertisements designed to make drugs look good.

There are 15 anti-HIV drugs available, each with different side effect profiles, dosing schedules and effectiveness. So, the doctor and patient have several choices to make. The decisions are complex and are individual, based on patient history and diagnosis. But, sales representatives have been unleashed to help influence doctors' decisions and sell their company's drugs, sometimes taking advantage of the complexity of HIV treatment and uneducated, unethical health care providers. The situation has serious implications for prescribing inferior or inappropriate treatments, risking the patient's health.

There is ample evidence to show how promotion of drugs influences treatment decisions made by physicians. One study in the

Journal of the American Medical Association, in 1994, showed that physicians were shown to change their decision of drug formularies when they were influenced by drug companies. Doctors also were rewarded with expensive gifts and lavish trips in exchange for a speaking engagement for a specific drug. The AIDS activist community has

even become bombarded with compromising honorariums, gifts and trips to attend "dog and pony shows" staged by companies. One company recently held a community meeting over a

weekend at a first-class beach front hotel in Santa Monica, California. Even more disturbing is the companies will present biased or "curbed" data at these meetings in order to make their drugs look better than they actually are.

Regardless of the pharmaceutical sales pitches, gifts, and honoraria, ethical doctors who know the research can still make sound treatment decisions. Dr. Virginia Cafaro, a Bay Area infectious disease physician, said, "The sales pitches are endless, but how much does anyone listen is the question." She said sales representatives do serve a purpose by providing education on new medicines. Even though she doesn't spend much time with the reps she will allow the companies to buy lunch for her staff, in essence buying time to hear what they have to say. Cafaro stated, "Free drug samples also help us get patients started and sometimes treated with meds that may not be covered by their insurance or

next page ►

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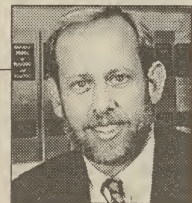
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Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Lars Erik Molin

November 9, 1954 — May 16, 2000

Lars Erik Molin passed away peacefully at home in San Francisco on May 16, 2000, in the loving presence of his mother, Harriet Molin, and his lifetime partner, James Sudbury. Lars' late father was Karl Einar Molin, and his siblings are Solveig Davidson, Dr. Karl Molin and Nils Molin. He was also attended by



his friends, Glenn Reynolds and Otis Ibarra.

Lars retired as a Medical Technologist from Children's Hospital. He loved everyone, and was tireless in helping those in need of assistance, counsel or

shelter. He always thought the best of others. His generosity was legend, and he was devoted to his partner, James, and the Molin and Davidson families. "Save me a seat near you, my love, none of us gets out of here alive."

Special thanks to his Mt. Zion Home Care caregivers, and the doctors and nurses of CPMC.

Friends are invited to a Celebration of the Life of Lars on June 11 at 2 p.m. at his mother's home at 1223 Gravenstein Hwy. North (Hwy. 116), Sebastopol. Please call (707) 823-1243 or (415) 821-2741 for information. Donations preferred to Shanti, or Sonoma County AIDS Food Bank.

James P. Russell

November 29, 1950 — May 19, 2000

Jim passed away peacefully at his home in Walnut Creek with his partner



and lover of 18 years, Brent Hayrynen, and his faithful dog, Harvey, at his side. He had fought a brave battle against HIV since he was diagnosed in 1985. Jim had lived in the Bay Area (San Francisco,

Daly City, and Walnut Creek) for over 20 years and loved every minute of it. Jim's career was as a computer programmer, but music was his passion and he was a proud member of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus and an accomplished pianist. He was a founding member of the Contra Costa Rainbow Community Center.

Jim was preceded in death by his mother, Frances Nardi Russell. Besides Brent, Jim is survived by his father and stepmother John and Pat Russell, and sister Margaret Warnock (Gary), all of Portsmouth, Ohio; brother Robert Russell (Betty), of Colorado Springs, Colorado; sister Catherine Russell (Spencer Cunningham) of Phoenix, Arizona; and his nephews Jacob Bodner, Bret and Scott Russell, and niece Erin Russell.

Jim's integrity, honesty, loyalty, and loving ways will be missed by all who knew him.

Survive AIDS

◀ previous page

MediCal."

Dr. Robert Goodman, an internist who works for Columbia-Presbyterian in New York, is trying to educate physicians on the marketing effort. He has started a Web site, www.nofreelunch.org, that is a wealth of information on the pharmaceutical marketing influence on physicians. He said that physicians are too arrogant and naïve and that you will never hear them admit a sales pitch is influencing them.

Drug companies counter their aggressive marketing strategies by

claiming that research and development costs are the reason for the high prices of drugs, and say that increased competition forces aggressive marketing. When you look at the data, however, it is clear that the companies spent over \$10 billion on promotion, which is much more than research and development costs, more than the raw materials, and more than is spent on medical school and residency training. Most would agree that drug companies are a business and have to sell their products in order to continue research, but the trade off is how far should marketing go if it is negatively influencing treatment decisions.

Are people with AIDS getting

responsible treatment and care in this era of aggressive sales pitches? Could there be a bias with treatment decisions because of the pharmaceutical sales influence? Is marketing winning out over sound scientific data? Perhaps what is needed are more knowledgeable patients working with their doctors and other health care providers to make the best, most appropriate treatment decisions regardless of the sales pitch. Either way, the problem may only intensify as the Food and Drug Administration loosens restrictions on commercial advertising, the sales representative forces grow larger, and more AIDS drugs become competition for each other. ▼

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OVER 20 YEARS SERVICE TO THE LESBIAN & GAY COMMUNITY

news you can use news you can use news you can use

Weekend warriors

by Jim Provenzano

While most folks were remembering all the thousands of lesbian and gay soldiers and sailors lost to battle, homophobia, and friendly fire with memorial barbecues, the Bay Area GL sports world was quite hopping over Memorial Day weekend.

The Golden Bear Classic Softball Tournament provided lots of fun on the diamond. Courtly tournaments took place in tennis, and more than a few GLBT Frisbee matches swirled through Golden Gate Park, which resembled the "Let's Go Fly a Kite" sequence from *Mary Poppins*.

Social events and wrestling, plus a group trek to Metreon's Logan's Run mall for a viewing of *Gladiator* comprised only some of the events at the Golden Gate Memorial Day weekend tournament. Among the visitors were some of Seattle's new gay wrestling squad, the Seattle Bulldogs.

Great T-shirts, guys. Also new in the fashion department, black mesh shorts with the 2002 logo for Sydney's Gay Games, available exclusively through GGWC for a mere \$20.

Speaking of Gay Games (November, two years from now, in Australia. You know that place where they made *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*), also in town were London-based Sue Emerson, co-president of the federation, as part of her global get-to-know-you mission. Federation members met

with potential sponsors and other GL sports folks at various events throughout the weekend. Sounds like things are going well for what could be the best – and most fiscally solvent – Gay Games in years. It'll also be the Games' 20th anniversary.

Lap runnin'

Being June, it's gay pride month! One of the annual Pride sports events is the San Francisco Front-Runners Pride Run at Golden Gate Park on Saturday June 24, the day before the allegedly-rigged Pride march and boothorama. Let's hope Pride Corp. doesn't fence it in, charge admission to that, and "lose" the cash, too.

The 21st 5K and 10K race will raise funds for LYRIC and the Community Center Project. Join, run, have some fun. Info www.sffrontrunners.com (415) 978-2429 or e-mail Pride Run race director Anne Ludwig at allatandem@aol.com to get a registration form.

Oars & bean

The next Bay Blades Casual Row will be this Saturday, June 3. Meet at the Lake Merritt Rowing Club boathouse by 8:30 a.m. and brunch will follow at 10:45 a.m. at the Oakland Grill.

The Oakland Grill is located near the corner of 3rd and Franklin streets in downtown Oakland. Drive down Broadway toward Jack London Square and turn left onto 3rd Street.

Starting in June, the casual row will be offered the first and third Saturdays of the month, with brunch to follow at 10:45 a.m. This will give the entire membership more rowing time together regardless of your participation in the training blocks.

Interested? E-mail Che Simmons at CKS5169@aol.com

Missing links

A gay sports Web site? Nice idea. Glad I thought of it. Now if I could get the corporate sponsorship some of these guys have, I'd be e-mailing this from Cherry Grove.

Several new gay and lesbian sports sites don't just sell smelly gear or show pictures of soccer players getting their pants yanked down.

A new sports Web site that merits the professor of thinkology degree is SportsGeek-Magazine.com "for people who think about sports."

Created by local librarian and sports fan Jamie Berger, the site's already in beta stage and looking good. Along with some nice pieces on aspects of pro and amateur sports, there's some thought-provoking lists of the out-of-control salaries prizes pro athletes get. My interview with gay Olympic diver David Pichler is posted as well.

A true highlight is Washington, D.C., writer Johnna Schmidt's trippy piece on figure skating: "Adored children grow into un-

recognizable adults and the routines present us with a spook-house mirror of our own decrepit aesthetic and social values. We consume it like we do everything else, hardly blinking as we order a four dollar soda. We love ice-skating because it's exactly as freaky as we are."

The Sportsgeek-magazine launch party is Monday, June 5, 9 p.m. at the Elbo Room, 647 Valencia Street. I'll be near the nibbly things, sweetie.

Outsports.com, another gay sports site, comes off as alpha male, your basic guy sports site that just happens to be run by gay guys. Also included are features about Corey Johnson (gay football teen), Eric Anderson (gay track coach/author), and others.

Outsports.com includes a gallery of the usual sports hunks, and a calendar of national GL sports events, personal ads and oh yes, sports gear sales. A hybrid of generic commentary; "How 'bout them Nicks?" and sexy innuendo, Outsports.com's oddest segment is a winners and losers column called Tops and Bottoms.

While being "nudge nudge wink wink," it still slams people who choose one sexual position over another. S'cuse me, but a top without a bottom is just a guy humping a pillow.

One of the creators of OutSports.com asked me when I'd be interested in doing more "regular" sports coverage. Meaning, "straight-acting?" Meaning, use sexual innuendo to describe sports without deconstructing it? Ignore the immense wall of homer-phobia in sports, don't critique or analyze it and mindlessly follow the careers of multi-millionaires who don't give diddly about fans?

Uh, don't hold your breath. ▼

To list your sports event, e-mail JimProv@excite.com, or visit <http://sportscomplex.org>.



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Zimbabwe

◀ page 19

tacked the former president for having "the audacity to contribute to the hate campaign against us."

Of all the countries in Africa, gays and lesbians are perhaps faced with the biggest threat in Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe's current president, Robert Mugabe, 76, has been known to attack homosexuals, whom he called "lower than dogs and pigs" on more than one occasion, was deeply embarrassed by the sodomy scandal involving his predecessor.

"I find it extremely outrageous and repugnant to my human conscience that such immoral and repulsive organizations, like those of homosexuals who offend both the laws of nature and the morals of religious beliefs espoused by our society, should have any advocates in our midst and even elsewhere in the world," said Mugabe, officially opening Zimbabwe's International Book Fair five years ago.

"If we accept homosexuality as a right, as is being argued by the association of sodomites and sexual pervers," he added, "what moral fiber shall our society ever have to deny organized drug addicts or even those given to bestiality... what rights may they claim and allege they possess under the rubrics of individual freedom and human rights, including the free-

dom of the press to write, publish and publicize literature on them?"

This vociferous attack drew sharp criticism from around the world, including from Amnesty International which published a statement condemning "a heavy-handed attack upon the fundamental human right to freedom of expression, to which the Zimbabwean government is ostensibly committed under its international legal obligations."

The organization emphasized that every living person has the right to hold and express his or her convictions freely and without fear of persecution, and to be free from any kind of discrimination, including by reason of their sexual orientation.

Soon after his attack on Zimbabwe's homosexuals, Mugabe found himself in a sticky situation when he faced violent demonstrations at Ian Smuts International Airport in Johannesburg when he arrived to attend a regional meeting in South Africa.

According to South African media, hundreds of gay and lesbian activists and supporters forced Mugabe and his entourage to leave the airport through the back gate.

This was just the beginning of Mugabe's war with homosexuals.

The polemics continued with

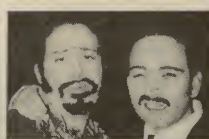
foreign participants after a group of around 70 members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter to the Zimbabwean president, pointing out that "when individuals are mistreated by a government because of some basic characteristic of their nature, human rights are violated."

However, Mugabe soon responded in his characteristic manner, with the following message, "Let the Americans keep their sodomy, bestiality, their stupid and foolish ways to themselves... keep those out of Zimbabwe... we do not want those kinds of behavior in our country."

Meanwhile, GALZ, an organization which was formed back in 1989 to provide support services for the gay community - counseling, access to literature and films, and AIDS awareness - is still trying to better the conditions under which homosexuals are forced to live in Zimbabwe.

An accomplished teacher and dedicated activist for homosexual human rights, Panghi Nyathi, 32, is believed to have recently committed suicide because he was "forced to endure the numerous stresses and strains brought on by homophobia in Zimbabwe."

As for Banana, his last chance to escape going to jail is to appeal for a pardon from Mugabe. ▼



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1015 Folsom

◀ page 5

search be stopped. He said security forced his friend to take off his shoe after they discovered a lump they suspected was drugs. Pettus said no one would be forced to remove their shoes or anything else and he reiterated that unless drugs are found, a patron has the right to walk away. Morelli said some of the customers who tried to walk away were detained anyway and told they were resisting arrest.

Morelli acknowledged the stupidity of his friend trying to bring drugs into the club, but he said he is speaking out because he believes people need to be educated that they have the right to withdraw their consent to be searched at any time prior to the discovery of drugs. Morelli believes the club wants to rack up arrests to improve its standing with police.

Morelli is not alone in his opinion of the club's security. An online circuit party discussion group included several postings from people echoing his concern the club was too aggressive and too invasive in its searches.

"I'm choosing to not go back into that club space - too many other places to go where there is a much more positive energy," wrote one person.

San Francisco police said 12 people were arrested from 1015 Folsom Sunday night, including at least six people who were in line to attend Mass, which took place from 6 p.m. to midnight.

Helm said he caught people trying to hide drugs in everything from Chapstick and TicTac containers, to shoes. Helm said several club customers told him they appreciated the crackdown. He said he was surprised and complimented when one of the people he arrested thanked him for the professional way in which the arrest was handled.

Helm said 1015's stricter drug policy has been in effect since he took over as head of security three weeks ago. He said the zero tolerance rules have already reduced the instances of people overdosing in the club. ▼

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1. Skinner, W.F. (1994) The prevalence and demographic predictors of illicit and licit drug use among lesbians and gay men, *American Journal of Public Health*, 84(6).
2. Stall, R. (1995) Cigarette Smoking Among gay and bisexual Men, *American Journal of Public Health* 85(12).
3. SAMHSA. (1995) National household survey on drug abuse: Main findings 1995. Rockville, MD: Department of Health and Human Services, Substance abuse and Mental Health Services.

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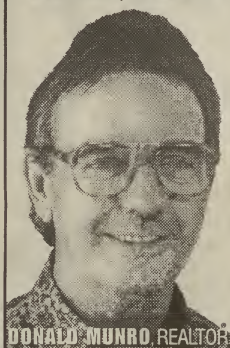
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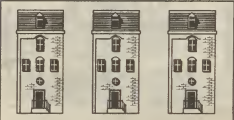
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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.240349

The following person(s) are doing business as Garden Belle, French Roots, 4327 18th Street, San Francisco, CA, 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Sylvie Carnot. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/27/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/27/2000

MAY 4, 11, 18, 25, 2000

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Application is Far Youssef. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, CA, 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1082 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA, 94103. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE

MAY 11, 18, 25, 2000

E22

STATEMENT FILE NO.240463

The following person(s) are doing business as Fiber Optic Illumination, 180 7th Street San Francisco, CA 94103 This business is conducted by a corporation, Website Direct Inc. signed Stephen Lipworth. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 02/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/02/2000

MAY 11, 18, 25, JUNE 01, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.239374

The following person(s) are doing business as Impact Physical Therapy, Inc. 3150 California Street #3, San Francisco, CA, 94115. This business is conducted by a corporation, Impact Physical Therapy, Inc. signed Irina Nosova. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 1/19/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/17/2000

APR. 20, 27, MAY 4, 18, 2000

E22

STATEMENT FILE NO.240796

The following person(s) are doing business as Sunrise Blinds & Shades, 1000 North Point #1206, San Francisco, CA, 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed David M. Jordan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 5/20/00. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/16/2000

MAY 25, JUNE 1, 8, 15, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240974

The following person(s) are doing business as My City Tours 1833 Broderick St. S.F., CA 94115. This business is conducted by an individual signed Russell Forrest. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/24/2000

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

E22

STATEMENT FILE NO.240561

The following person(s) are doing business as LockeOn! 801 Fillmore St. #21, San Francisco, CA 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne Brooks Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 05/04/2000

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

STATEMENT FILE NO.240979

The following person(s) are doing business as Cathedral Tours of San Francisco 5235 Diamond Heights Blvd. Suite 301 San Francisco, CA 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Steven L. Rogers. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/24/2000

JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000

E22

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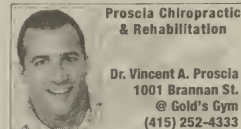
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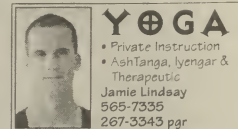
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NOTICES**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 311785
In The Superior Court Of The State Of California In And For The County Of San Francisco. In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Bell For Change of Name. The application of Sarah Bell for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Bell has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Etana Isis Solari. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of June 2000, at 9:00 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JUNE 1, 8, 15, 22, 2000



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Canadian journalist and academic
Thomas Waugh on 20 years of queer film.
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The Green party
Author Jesse Green on
being a Velveteen father.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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TORCH SONG TRILOGY

from stage to screen and back

by David Lamble

Eons ago, before the dawn of the Tequila Sunrise, before the web browser replaced the need for good pickup lines, when being dishy and bitchy still went hand in mouth — a much younger me was observing a 300-pound man sashaying across an East Dallas bar in heels, moving his lips along with his hips. What was he lippping to? Memory is kind, and I can't quite recall, but Abba, The O'Jays and Wayne Newton were all on the jukebox — pick your poison.

I didn't go home with that queen that night, but I did make it with other queens on other nights. Like Bambi in the headlights, I was a refrigerator magnet for the theatrically inclined. Why? Frankly, I hadn't a clue, until Harvey Fierstein staged *Torch Song Trilogy* to educate and titillate a generation of clueless boys — on such housekeeping tips as what to do with the beer can in a backroom bar, and how to greet your new friend the morning after. "If I really like a guy, I automatically wake three minutes before him. Giving me just enough time to unsucker my pucker, reinstate my coif, and repose my repose so's his eyes upon waking conjure images by Jove and Lana Turner, guaranteeing my breakfast if not his actual phone number."

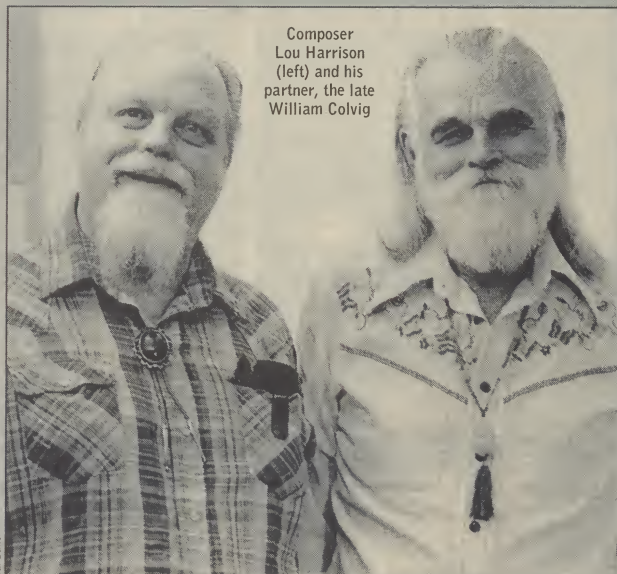
In 1970, Harvey Fierstein ran off to join off-off Broadway's version of the circus (a riot of small theatre spreading across lower Manhattan) — the 16-year-old Pratt College art major answering an actors' call for Andy Warhol's *Pork*. "So I went down to La Mama... and, not knowing any better, got cast in it," Fierstein said in his *BAR* interview (March 5, 1987) with Wendell Ricketts.

Harvey took to writing cafe plays — *Freaky Pussy*, *Flatbush Tosca*, *Cannibals Just Know No Better* — dramatic training bras for his queen's opus. Said Harvey, "The style was sort of what the performance artists are doing now. But it reeked so much more of the movies that we watched and of our television backgrounds — of just trying to shock audiences. I mean, that's what we were into. And we did it! And we had a lot of fun doing it."

Torch Song Trilogy began at La Mama E.T.C. as three stand-alone

page 32 ►

Harvey Fierstein (left) and Matthew Broderick
in the 1988 film, *Torch Song Trilogy*



Composer
Lou Harrison
(left) and his
partner, the late
William Colvig

AMERICAN SAMPLER

Maverick music is coming to Davies Hall

by Michael McDonagh

For much of the last century, contemporary music has existed on the fringe, and sad to say, it still pretty much does. The symphony orchestra, after all, is viewed as a museum where you go to hear your favorite masterpieces. This situation has naturally frustrated living composers. You'd never expect to see really old paintings all the time in an art gallery, so why should the concert hall present just the tried and true? When a major organization presents music of the present and the recent past, we're bound to sit up and take notice. The San Francisco Symphony's *American Mavericks Festival* — 12 concerts, from June 7-24 — won't change

the ghetto/outsider statue of this music. But it will project an overview of modern American music.

Billed as an adventure, and even more hyperbolically as something that will make audiences feel their own specialness — "You're not everyone else. Neither are the American mavericks." — this latest incarnation of Michael Tilson Thomas' sometimes inspired festival programming presents the work of 24 composers. But what exactly makes American music American? Virgil Thomson used to say that all you have to do is be an American and write whatever you like, and that's as good a description as any.

Gay composer Lou Harrison (1917-), the subject of a three-work tribute on June

page 39 ►

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

by Roberto Friedman
and Cindy Phile

It's getting awfully close to that time when giants walk amongst us — we mean the 24th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival, coming right up on June 15-25. Every year about this time, the annual flurry of rumors of celebrities who may or may not attend becomes torrential. Confirmed: "It" girl **Margaret Cho** will be very much present when *I'm the One That I Want* has its world premiere (6/23). Her off-Broadway hit was filmed when the show touched down at the Warfield, where her parents saw her act for the first time.

Confirmed: **Clea DuVall** (*Girl, Interrupted*), along with fellow cast members (**Natasha "American Pie" Lyonne** is a *maybe*), for the closing night film, *But I'm a Cheerleader* (6/25).

Still unconfirmed at presstime, but their names are being banded about: Amazon film goddess **Marlee Mattingly** (she's in *Sex Monster*, 6/23); Teutonic "mother of punk" **Nina Hagen** (=Punk + Glory, 6/23); mascara champion **Tammy Faye Bakker** (**Randy Barbato** and **Fenton Bailey's**



The cast of *Punks*, which opens the 24th SFILGFF on June 15.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye, 6/17, already rates high on the buzz meter.)

Filmmaker **Barbara Hammer** will accept this year's Frameline Award and see the world premiere of her *History Lessons* (6/21), the third part of her lesbian history trilogy (*Nitrate Kisses*, *Tender Fictions*).

Highly-placed sources close to the Festival call opening night film *Punks* (6/15) "the black *Trick*" or

"Billy's *Black Hollywood Screen Kiss*." The soundtrack boasts immortal music-makers **Sister Sledge**, **Marvin Gaye** and **Diana Ross**. *Punks* is being hailed as the first mainstream black gay movie (*Chocolate Babies* didn't exactly play the 'plexes). It's the product of a straight production company headed by one-time R&B singer **Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds**.

Out There tripped across 9th Street to the Frameline offices so we could ask Festival co-directors **Michael Lumpkin** and **Jennifer Morris** a few questions. Certain programs are predictable sell-outs, so we asked for the heads up on films that might possibly be overlooked in the mad rush. Morris called our attention to **Jacqui North's** *Chrissy*, the first lengthy documentary about a lesbian with AIDS, "which is rarely discussed in the lesbian community. And she's not a pathetic person." (6/24)

Lumpkin gave another example of a film that may not jump out at you from the program: **François Ozon's** *Water Drops on Burning Rocks*, based on a script written at 19 by immortal auteur **Rainer Werner Fassbinder**. Some speculate the script is autobiographical; Fassbinder wouldn't let it be filmed during his lifetime. A young boy has a love affair with a man twice his age, and the look is '70s Germany (6/24).

A few other films to watch out for: a rare screening of 1964 Cinemascope camp masterpiece *Manji* (dir.: **Yasuzo Masumura**)

on 6/20, 22; the series devoted to **Spanish queer cinema**; festival darling **Desi Del Valle** in director **Mary Guzmán's** *Desi's Looking for a New Girl* (6/16); and, still unconfirmed at presstime but news about to break: the premiere of **Siegfried & Roy**, the first (and probably the only ever) gay 3-D Imax film, at Metreon. We're assured the film veers between camp and Vegas reality (whatever that is!) Scary!

Reykjavik rules

Talking of film fest glamour, a hearty "Brava!" to Icelandic pop princess **Bjork** for her recent triumph in Cannes. Danish filmmaker **Lars Von Trier** won the Palme d'Or, and Bjork, its star, won the best actress award. It's Von Trier's first "musical" — or at least a melodrama with musical elements. Bjork plays Selma, a woman going blind whose imagination blossoms into musical numbers. She's also the lead in her hometown's production of *The Sound of Music*, which score we're afraid to report *does* make it into the film, as Selma rehearses "My Favorite Things."

La Bjork beamed about Cannes like the Good Fairy from Planet Falsetto, in her crinoline



Icelandic pop princess Bjork

pouf ball gown and 21st-century chic. We dusted off our old Sugar-cubes albums and put them on for a spin. *The NY Times* reported, "Perhaps the most striking thing about her speaking voice is how similar it is to her singing."

GLAAD bags SF

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation has its first-ever San Francisco Media Awards this Saturday, June 3 at The Argonaut Hotel.

Out There had a little chat with **Kurt Stammerberger**, Co-Chair of the event with producer **Greg Taylor**. Stammerberger called the night

a big step for GLAAD, which already has a high profile in the major media centers: NYC for its publishing and media power, LA for Hideyhood, and DC for that special brand of show biz called politics. Now that SF has become a hotbed for the New Media (take a deep breath), GLAAD is reaching out and touching someone — us!

The awards recognize outstanding achievement in the fair and accurate portrayal of our families and community. Over 40 awards will go out in SF: in digital journalism (including best article, and best LGBT digital media outlet or website); TV special or TV-movie; music album; and comic book — we're talking gay characters in mainstream comix, not **Cap'n Beano** and His Boy-Toys.

Celebs include Golden Gate Award honoree **Margaret Cho** (it's her moment, isn't it); **Kathy Levinson**, the out lesbian CFO of E! Trade; and, as presenters: **Jennifer (Bound) Tilly**, **So. Park's** **Trey Parker** — with an animation custom-made for the occasion, so **Big Gay Al** will no doubt also be there. Oh, we're promised *Star Trek* personalities old and new, including **George Takei**; *3rd Rock from the Sun's* **Kristen Johnson**, a certain **Willie**, Planet of **DiFi**, even **Peter Coyote**.

"The Internet has even greater reach; it's eventually the most important media of all in reaching out to the isolated," said Stammerberger. But we don't feel isolated at all. We feel — inundated, but in the nicest possible way. ▼

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Miss Desmond shoots the moon

From Sunset Boulevard to Columbus Ave.

by Richard Dodds

It's a parody of a movie sequel that was never made. *Miss Desmond Behind Bars* imagines what happens to *Sunset Boulevard*'s Norma Desmond after she's hauled off to jail for shooting her gigolo boyfriend. And then the show kicks up its high heels and goes bonkers.

Well-received when it ran at a 99-seat theater in Los Angeles, this original musical comedy is looking to San Francisco for its shot at the big time. "Everyone is 100 percent excited and 100 percent panic-stricken," said Mark Goff, the author and co-producer of a new and improved version, beginning performances June 3 at the 350-seat 7th Note Showclub in North Beach.

If *Miss Desmond* becomes a San Francisco hit, it will complete an unlikely journey for a group of friends who started out by lip synching in drag at various AIDS charity events. A joke bio in the program at one of these benefits eventually led to *Miss Desmond Behind Bars*.

"One of the guys wrote that his character had done the bus-and-truck company of the sequel to *Sunset Boulevard*," Goff said. "Now he is *Miss Desmond*."

It was that mock program bio that inspired Goff when a Pasadena AIDS organization asked the group to perform at a fundraiser. "I started thinking about how to push the limits of what we always have done, and I turned out an outline of a script," Goff said, a first-time writer who manages a costume shop by day. "At first, everyone panicked, because for the most part all they did was lip synch. But a majority said let's try it, and we actually lost some people who were afraid of the live vocals."

With a script created from improvisational sessions based on Goff's outline, and with two original songs by Leo Savalas, the early version of *Miss Desmond* drew so much attention at its two-perfor-

mance benefit run that the group decided to shoot the moon.

With 10 songs by Savalas, a revamped script by Goff, and Erin Quigley hired as director, *Miss Desmond Behind Bars* opened at the Court Theatre in Los Angeles to mainly appreciative reviews. "In this hilarious production," wrote the *Los Angeles Times*, "the all-male cast performs with such over-the-top charm that the script's predictability becomes part of its charm."

Potential producers began arriving from New York, and one, Stephen Eich, suggested a San Francisco run before considering New York. Five members of the original cast, including Gregory Messer as *Miss*

Desmond, have quit their day jobs to travel with the show to San Francisco.

Only one principal in the cast of eight, 6-foot-3 drag novice Sean Ryan as a big-haired Fran Drescher type, is from San Francisco. "We actually tried to cast a number of roles out of San Francisco, and our auditions were not great," Goff said. "You're looking for men who are great actors, who are hot singers, and who are also willing to work in a dress. It's a tough one."

The musical takes place in the prison housing Norma Desmond after she has shot Joe Gillis. The former silent film star thinks she's on a movie set, a fantasy aided by gossip columnist Hedda Hopper, and the prisoners even convince her that their escape plans are in a script they are shooting.

Variety is the theme of the songs. "Every piece in the show is diametrically different from everything else," Goff said. "It just keeps coming at you, and that's the fun of it." A jungle number, a calypso tune, a Sondheim-like ballad, and a tap routine are part of the 10-song lineup.

The current cast is all gay, Goff said, "but this is not a gay play by any means. It's like a Carol Burnett parody that gays and straights can enjoy together. That's what makes it viable, that you don't

have a target audience."

For ticket information, call 433-9500.

A Hardy affair

Remember the Hardy Boys, those all-American crime-solving lads whose adventures were chronicled in a series of books that could be found in the literature section of your local Woolworth's? Well, they're the latest cultural icons to find themselves fricasseed into a campy musical parody.

The Secret of the Old Queen, beginning performances this week at the New Conservatory Theatre Center, follows these junior sleuths as they uncover who has been robbing the euphemistically described "bachelor elite" of their hometown — where, the boys sing, the skies are always blue and the bread is always white.

Written by Timothy Cope, and with songs by Paul Boesing, *Old Queen* has twice been a hit in Chicago for the Stage Left Theatre. Last year, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote that the musical is "good queeny fun," and the *Chicago Sun-Times* said that "even while the piece probes (or perhaps invents) the repressed gay subtext of those original tales, the camp clowning is always accompanied by palpable affection for this kinder, gentler world."

John Sowle is directing the San Francisco debut of *The Secret of the Old Queen*, a co-production between New Conservatory and



The cast of *Miss Desmond Behind Bars*, at the 7th Note Showclub

Kaliyuga Arts. For ticket info, call 861-8972.

Short scenes

• Paul Tena can add the flamboyant showcase role of Arnold in *Torch Song Trilogy* to the list of memorable gay characters he has played on local stages. Tena's credits include *Medea - the Musical*, *Combat!*, *Dirty Little Show Tunes*, *Barebacking - a Sex Panic! Comedy*, and *The Joy of Gay Sex*. Tena is playing the role Harvey Fierstein created for himself in *Torch Song*, opening this week at New Conservatory Theatre Center (861-8972).

• Familiar fairy tales find their sapphic equivalents in Emma Donoghue's *Kissing the Witch*, opening June 9 at the Magic The-

atre (441-8822). The Dublin-born lesbian writer adapted *Witch* from her 1997 novel of the same name.

• Another literary adaptation transfers Frances Driscoll's *The Rape Poems* from the page to the stage. Ambit Theatre Company is offering its adaptation of Driscoll's poems about her experiences as a rape survivor at Exit Stage Left (440-4913), beginning June 2.

• *Contact*, the big Broadway dance hit, will launch its national tour at the Curran Theatre in May 2001. The show is nominated for a best-musical Tony, a controversial categorization that has prompted Tony official to create a "special event" category for the 2001 awards. ▼

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Harvey Fierstein as Arnold in drag (right), in the nightclub scene in the film *Torch Song Trilogi* (1988)

Torch Song

◀ Arts cover

one-act plays. *The International Stud* made its debut on February 2, 1978, followed by *Fugue in a Nursery* a year later almost to the day, and climaxing with *Widows and Children First!* on October 25, 1979. In a note to the published *Trilogi* (Villard Books, 1982), Harvey writes, "There is a gay bar in New York City called The International Stud. It boasts a pool table, a pinball machine, and the jumpiest backroom in town." Written for a cast of three (Arnold, Ed and Lady Blues), *The International Stud* was designed to be performed against a black cyclorama with as little scenery as possible. It is here that a very reluctant Arnold will be introduced to backroom butt-fucking and to Ed, the great *meshuga* bisexual love of his life — the man with whom he will break up, make up and try to raise a family.

Gay theatre had begun in the '70s in gay bars, and, prior to Fierstein, was largely gay TV — a typical production would open with two cute, scantily-dressed young guys screwing, quickly joined by a third. In *Torch Song*, Harvey Fierstein proclaimed that there was more to gay life than sex, although, unlike the Ayatollah Larry Kramer (*The Normal Heart*), Fierstein was no prude. Arnold's pantomiming being fucked in the butt would raise both of La Mama founder Ellen Stewart's brows. "She was very down on backrooms and the truck stops," Harvey told the *BAR*. "She didn't like the idea of La Mama people hanging out in those places."

Ironically, the film of *Torch Song*, made in 1988 with sitcom director Paul Bogart, defangs the

Stud, turning it into a warm and very *Cheers*-like playground. On stage, *The International Stud's* Arnold ("24, going on 40") is "a kvetch of great wit and want." Arnold has an unseen buddy, Murray (who is to Arnold kind of what Harvey the invisible rabbit was to Elwood P. Dowd), who guides Arnold through this very adult theme-park.

"Murray, quick, hold my hand. I'm scared! What if nobody back there wants me? It's one thing to go into a regular bar and not get picked up... but, Murray, to go into a place like that and get re-

jecting previously hidden needs and desires that none of them are able to satisfy totally, either alone or in any possible pairing. The film reduces the drama to Alan and Laurel's curiosity about their lovers' back pages. *Torch Song* the film needed a Bergman rather than a Bogart.

The third play/act *Widows and Children First!* made the transition to the screen with the least damage. With its naturalistic setting and Neil Simon-like dialogue, the play presented fewer Hobson-like choices for writer Fierstein and director Bogart. Anne Bancroft is a

Both film and stage versions of 'Torch Song' reveal how ahead of the curve Harvey Fierstein was in his vision of the "alternative" families gays would form.

jected... I don't think I could take it. I know I got [a] glowing personality. But, Murray, what if I don't glow in the dark?"

In the sitcom film, Murray is a very visible drag queen, a Rhoda to Arnold's Mary Richards.

Fugue state

The apex of the stage version of *Torch Song* is the second act/play, *Fugue in a Nursery*. Fierstein's conceit brilliantly employs both dictionary definitions of fugue: "1. in music, a polyphonic composition constructed of one or more short subjects or themes, which are harmonized according to the laws of counterpoint, and introduced by the various instruments or voices in succession with contrapuntal devices. 2. temporary flight from reality." In Ada Janik's original score for the New York production, each character was represented by an instrument: Arnold by the cello, Alan (his young boyfriend) by the clarinet, Laurel (Ed's girlfriend) by the violin, and Ed (Arnold's ex) by the French horn. The set is an enormous bed in which the four characters appear in various couplings. Fierstein cautions in the stage directions, "Special care should be taken that the four characters never appear to be in bed together. The desired effect is vulnerability, not obscenity."

In a series of complicated conversations, Arnold, Alan, Laurel and Ed expose themselves, reveal-

little over-the-top at times as Arnold's Jewish mother (Gene Rowlands) would have been an interesting alternative), but the only things really lost in transit are some of the rougher edges to adopted gay son David's very Arnold-like persona. The stage David makes us a little more uncomfortably aware as to why he likes Arnold as his adopted Ma/Pa.


Both film and stage versions reveal how ahead of the curve Harvey Fierstein was in his vision of the "alternative" families gays would form. As Arnold notes after going ten rounds with his mother, "What I want more than anything is to have exactly the life she had — with a few minor alterations."

Harvey Fierstein's *Torch Song Trilogi* is a dramatic photograph album of the '70s, snapshots of a decade that was the best of times and the worst of times, a decade that seemed for a while to be delivering on many of the '60s' more tantalizing promises, a decade whose worst sin besides tacky clothes and hair was its slippery-slope dissolve into the '80s and '90s. *Torch Song Trilogi* brings it all back: gay life without AIDS, but with all the longings and painful insecurities of perpetual adolescence. ▼

The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents a revival of *Torch Song Trilogi*, June 3-July 15. Tickets, call 861-8972.

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Meeting cute

Ed: What do you do?

Arnold: I'm a female impersonator.

Ed: (laughs) No, I mean for a living?

Arnold: I'm a female impersonator. Does that bother you?

Ed: (pause) Not yet.

by Harvey Fierstein, from his screenplay for *Torch Song Trilogi* (1988).

THEATRE

Maggie Gyllenhaal and Andrew Borda in Patrick Marber's *Closer*

Love, other acts of abuse

Berkeley Rep's dark 'Closer'

by Richard Dodds

A great first-date play it's not, but *Closer* at Berkeley Rep is often bracing theater. Love (or what passes for it) gets regularly kicked in the groin in Patrick Marber's London hit now having its West Coast debut. In this case, love often means having to say you're sorry.

After all, this is a play in which the first-act curtain line is, "Fuck off and die, you fucked-up slag." It is delivered by a dermatologist to his cheating wife, a photographer about to leave him for an author whose book-jacket photo she shot. For his part, the author is

dumping the former stripper he met at a traffic accident. Over the course of the two acts, these four characters continually shift allegiances, until a finale in which everyone is abundantly alone.

There are stretches when the tightly wound tensions of Marber's script go slack, but mostly director Wilson Milam's production maintains a gripping intensity. These characters are brutally honest with each other, at least when they're not lying. Sometimes they are just brutal, and we watch with the kind of horrified fascination that gives an accident its unholy appeal.

But the play is not just emotional pummelings. There is honest insight in Marber's dark views,

and he has surprising and inventive ways of expressing familiar emotions. There are laughs, too, notably in a cybersex scene of mistaken identities.

The director and his designers may overdo the throbbing disco scene changes, which are usually out of character with the scenes that surround them, but he and his cast have found warm-blooded life in an icy play.

Natacha Roi, who understudied Natasha Richardson in the Broadway production of *Closer*, is excellent as the photographer, stylishly conveying the skeptical character's passions and regrets. There is a smirky sexiness to Andrew Borda's performance as the selfish writer, and Maggie Gyllenhaal is simply terrific as the rag-doll former stripper who briefly transforms herself back into sultry vixen in one stunning scene. Thomas Schall ably completes the cast as the awkward dermatologist who can't seem to get under anyone's skin.

I'm not sure if Marber believes that love between two adults can exist, but most of us prefer to look at play like this as an example of behavior to be avoided, as opposed to evidence of what we must inevitably succumb to. *Closer* could be depressing if you take it as more than a cautionary tale. ▼

Closer will run at Berkeley Rep through July 8. Tickets are \$38-\$48.50. Call (510) 845-4700.

Schmoozing Phantom

by Richard Dodds

Andrew Lloyd Webber's name has very nearly become a punch line. The composer of *Cats*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *The Phantom of the Opera* is just too slickly commercial for many tastes. But you might well find yourself singing his praises after a visit to the American Musical Theatre of San Jose.

You won't find anything by Lloyd Webber on its stage, but you will likely realize what a solid piece of craftsmanship his *Phantom of the Opera* is after seeing the alternative *Phantom* that AMTSJ has brought to beleaguered life. There is precious little to praise in the production at the cavernous San Jose Center for the Performing Arts.

According to press-agentry lore, Maury Yeston and Arthur Kopit, who had successfully collaborated on the musical *Nine*, had written their version of Gaston Leroux's *Phantom of the Opera* before Andrew Lloyd Webber's juggernaut came along and effectively destroyed its chances for a Broadway production. Yet the enormous popularity of Lloyd Webber's musical encouraged Yeston and Kopit to dust off their abandoned project and offer it to regional theaters hungry for anything with "Phantom" in the title.

There have been hundreds of productions of the Yeston-Kopit *Phantom*, and some folks profess to like it better than Lloyd Webber's version, so you have to believe it has some redeeming qualities. They are, lamentably, hard to detect in the San Jose production. From the clichéd opening scene on a Paris set marked by seams, wrinkles, and bruises to the poorly staged bathos of the closing scene, the production is substandard in almost all categories.

Librettist Kopit, a writer with several significant plays to his credit, has taken considerable and clumsy liberties with the basic *Phantom* story to deleterious effect. This is a *Phantom* who schmoozes with the manager of the Paris Opera House, stripping the character of the mystery and threat that Kopit still tries to muster. He even tells jokes. "I think her voice is worse than my face," he says of a wobbly singer, undercutting the torment he later expresses over his deformity.

If Yeston had at least provided

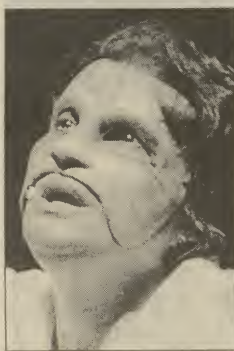
several memorable songs, the foolishness of Kopit's contributions might be assuaged. But there are none, at least not as rendered by this disappointing cast. The music is particularly uninviting in the voice of Richard White, surprising since he originated the role in 1991.

Kristin Peterson plays Christine Daae, the *Phantom's* beloved singer, as a dingbat, while Simon Relph is uncommonly wan as her supposedly charismatic beau. The one performer to emerge with his dignity intact is Joe Vincent, who brings a stature and commitment to the role of the troubled opera

house manager that is otherwise missing here.

American Musical Theatre, a hugely successful enterprise, can usually be counted on at least for glossy entertainment. This *Phantom* is frightful for all the wrong reasons. ▼

Phantom will run at the San Jose Center for the Performing Arts through June 4. Tickets are \$35-\$50. Call (888) 455-SHOW.



Richard White is the Phantom

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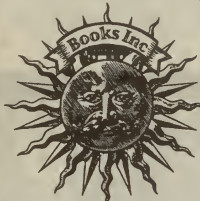
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instinct

Photo by
Gabriel Arslanovitch

Critic at the revolution

by Daniel Blue

The Fruit Machine by Thomas
Waugh; Duke University Press,
\$17.95

The gay movement stands in need of its own Roger Ebert, a film critic of national standing who will represent our view. At first glance, *The Fruit Machine: Twenty Years of Writings on Queer Cinema* seems a likely contender, but author Thomas Waugh has a different ambition. "I was a film critic for the Gay Revolution," he announces, and his collection of reviews and essays reads less like a challenge to Pauline Kael than a front-row seat on the fight for liberation.

A Canadian journalist and academic, Waugh gets his title from an experiment the Mounties made in the '60s. Hoping to weed out undesirables, they put photos from muscle magazines in front of recruits and measured eye movements to see who was aroused. The project was known as *The Fruit Machine*, and Waugh takes it as a metaphor for ways the body gives itself away before an image. The process can be scary yet revelatory, and explains why so many lesbians and gays spent their childhood in theaters, incubating identities drawn from the screen.

In Waugh's eyes, this cries for attention, and he has devoted 20-odd years to interrogating films and their makers, recording his arousal quotient and its implications. He's a scrappy viewer, assailing pictures which send what he thinks is the wrong message ("La Cage aux folles does) for gays what blackface minstrel shows and Stepin Fetchit did for blacks.") He eulogizes masters like Eisenstein and Fassbinder, applauds personal favorites (*Nighthawks*, *Maurice*), and attacks censorship on the grounds, among others, that it reminds many of us of what it was like to be in the closet.

Above all, he's a fag-spotter —

he can't resist inspecting celebrities for limp wrists — and he carries this habit into his reviews, looking for what is specifically gay in a film. Attending movies is a kind of cruising, and he demands a fruit machine which really works, providing the pertinence and authenticity missing in the mainstream.

Since Waugh's specialty is "films by gays for gays," many of the works he discusses (*Another*

old habits die hard. He hasn't gotten used to the cinematic wealth and finds himself savoring each individual offering "like a new millionaire who still hoards string."

By the '90s, gay films were everywhere, and it would seem that Waugh is out of a job. Now that the revolution has apparently collapsed under its own success, he points out the dark side of our visibility, observing that when gay films were scarce, each was cherished and assured of an audience, whereas today, even our best movies disappear in a glut of production.

Meanwhile, Waugh shifts from the short to the long haul, no longer critiquing individual films so much as observing general tendencies, which he expounds in scholarly essays. He points out, with regard to certain women's films, that "The body was becoming a new organ of speech, a new performative apparatus." In "Walking on Tippy Toes," he develops the insight that "coming out" was a kind of performance, both onscreen and in private.

Waugh presents all this in an alternately perky and pedantic style, which seems right for a reviewer who covers both *Porky's* and *Potemkin*. He can title a chapter "Patty Duke and Tasteful Dykes," then use a word like "intradiegetically," while phrases such as "defetishization of the infested discharge" will drive many to shut the book screaming. Ultimately, such verbal cleverness gets the better of him. Readers will remember a comment made to Flaubert when he was in his novice phase: "You have written a diarrhea of pearls." The book is just too rich. When every sentence seems inspired, reading a whole page can prove a chore, and this is a collection better browsed than read.

But not to put down. Attentive readers will find on every page sentences so clear and insightful that they have no choice but to keep circling. Waugh is less a film critic than a cultural historian, and few have analyzed our revolutions with so much intelligence and fire. ▼



Foreword by John Greyson

Way, Luc) have disappeared for good. That doesn't mean they weren't important. Back in the '70s and even later, gay films were a rarity, and their screenings galvanized the metropolitan audiences who saw them. *Word Is Out*, *The Naked Civil Servant*, and *A Very Natural Thing* sent shock waves well beyond the immediate spectators, and Waugh was there to register the impact.

At first, Waugh cuts something of a heroic figure — a frontier scout of history, checking the terrain and peering to sight what's coming next. As the book progresses and our works go mainstream, he finds such vigilance less necessary. In the mid-'80s, when gay films were taken for granted and *My Beautiful Laundrette* was playing at the cineplex instead of in the ghetto, he wistfully reflects that

FILM

Hail to the pothead



It's incredible that there's still a stigma attached to marijuana use, let alone possible criminal prosecution. Beginning Friday, June 2, at the Castro Theatre, filmmaker Ron Mann (*Comic Book Confidential*) investigates the history of marijuana prosecution in the United States in his new documentary *Grass*. The movie features archival footage (such as this scene of psycho President Richard M. Nixon inhaling a highly aromatic package of confiscated pot) and narration by actor/hemp activist Woody Harrelson. And the press materials assure us: No hippies were harmed in the making of this movie. Plays June 2-14 at the Castro. ▼

Home movies from hell

Luther Price at SF Cinematheque

by Gary Morris

The Super-8 camera and projector were once the beloved means by which postwar America could document itself, freezing forever, it was thought, reassuring images of kids' birthday parties, Levittown barbecues, Kodak Christmases, and other homely celebrations of unobstructed upward mobility and cheery conformity. But Super-8 vanished almost entirely from the culture long ago, and with it went all those supposedly simple lives and dreams and homespun rituals it chronicled. Almost — because a few filmmakers have kept the format alive, collapsing sometimes startling social and cultural critiques onto the tiny frame. The greatest of these faithful, indeed one of the most powerful artists working in any medium today, is Luther Price, the subject of a long-overdue three-day retrospective at the San Francisco Cinematheque (June 1, 3, 4).

Price is an anomaly on many levels. He's gay but unwelcome by the gay community, which reviled him for the alleged homophobic excesses of *Sodom*. He invents alter-egos, including the short-lived "Fag" and the more enduring "Tom Rhoads." He's worked as a waiter, played in bands (and started a country band), and "committed suicide," via a candy overdose, in one of his performance pieces. Much of his personal history is mysterious, in spite of his frequent use of himself and his family and their history via photos and home movies in his films. He was nearly killed (and was heavily scarred) in a shooting accident in Nicaragua in the mid-1980s. He works in a disreputable format, and appears in various guises in his own work, from stylized, frozen-faced drag queen to naked performance artist to clown. And he occupies the same contested cultural space as artists like Karen Finley, in being so controversial that his work has occasioned the immediate firing of programmers who have dared to show it. Increasingly revered as a filmmaker, he's also made a strong impact in his sculpture, photography, and performance art.

Price's film work has an oppressive intensity, envisioning an alienated world of often mindlessly repeated rituals and poses that entrap and suffocate his subjects. He sets up a constant dialogue between his compromised victim-subjects (often himself or his own family) and the equally compromised film stock itself. Images of ruptured flesh and ghostly birthday parties are further ruptured and drained of life by Price's torturous manipulations of the film, which can include chemical processing, filters, optical printing, rephotography, and even holes punched in the frame. What emerges is Price's great subject — the breaches, breakdowns, and collapse of body, family, and society, and by extension all of life, in the face of unstoppable philosophical forces. What makes it work is the nonstop flow of extraordinary, unforgettable imagery.

Unhappy birthday

The first of the three shows, *Home Sweet Home*, is a collection of Price's domestic psychodramas starring himself and his family. *Home* (1999) is typical, a hammering collage of tableaux mor-

dant constructed from his own family photos and birthday party images re-photographed and re-processed, while an increasingly unsettling, endlessly repeated anecdote is told in the background. While distant screams and melodramatic music filigree the soundtrack, the speaker (presumably Price's mother) seems to be caught in a loop, refraining pieces of a story the viewer is doomed never to hear complete. The images are violently ruptured: distorted, reversed, chemically burned — Price's assaults on the film stock itself are a crucial part of his strategy — so the "happy ritual," a recurring birthday party, has a drained, deathly look. *Mother* (1998-99) explores much of the same territory, this time literally deconstructing the filmmaker's mother through repeated images of her seen through colored filters, in negative form, and all manner of other assaultive views.

Another highlight of the first show is *Green* (1988), which at first glance appears to be a simple formalist study: the still, close-up image of a dead starling lying on the ground, scrutinized by the camera for an uncomfortably long time while some unknown diva from the '50s croons on the soundtrack. But Price himself shows up in one of his most bizarre and powerful guises — as a partially masked drag queen, standing like a statue in what appears to be entropy (the title, suggesting life, is clearly ironic), in a scary wig and heavy gown, holding an ice cream that gradually melts in his hand. For Price, the pose — no doubt born out of the pressures of family life he's recorded elsewhere — is all-consuming and all-entrapping. The mysterious queen he portrays is being strangled by her own permanent smile and the impossibly rigid pose she must assume in the film's empty, dead world. The image is at once campy, shocking and poignant — transfixed, she's unable even to eat the ice cream, which she holds helplessly at arm's length as it melts.

Compromised flesh

Price has said, "I feel like the camellia plant. I grow, and then I crumble." This sense of decorative rot and the imminence of death permeates the second show, *Body Fluid*, but with unexpected glimpses of otherworldly beauty. *Ritual 629* (1990-99), for example, crams the screen with what look like glittering scars and wounds, a cave of mottled flesh in which a barely discernible naked male figure (Price) is fucking himself by squatting up and down on a stick. (We can only imagine what the previous 628 rituals must have been like.) More compromised flesh can be found in *Meat Situation 04* (1997), but this time the context is a send-up of a 1950s industrial film about medical procedures. Price introduces camp motifs — the nurse wears a Paisley surgical mask, hardly regulation — but also some gross medical footage that powerfully recalls the near-destruction of his own flesh in Nicaragua. Price is constantly, obsessively revisiting that wound, clearly one of his inspirations. *Meat Blue 03* (1999) features an array of smashed bodies and, particularly, a detached, rotting leg that lies ominously at the back of the frame for long stretches as a naked, writhing Price engages in

what appears to be a peculiarly disgusting ritual.

It isn't all scalpels and paisley and gangrene, however; Price's critique is surprisingly wide and sometimes hilarious. Even the often gruesome *Meat Blue 03* includes a singing cowgirl (Price, of course), as well as a dancing maggot.

Eruption-Erection (1989) uses found footage of a pretty-boy Jesus freak from the late '70s singing hymns in a tacky TV studio barn. This hip-hugged twink becomes instantly comic-sinister through repetitions of the same footage and manipulations of the soundtrack, which render his sweetly banal voice into a slow, guttural cry. Given the images in the other films, the twink becomes an eerie doppelgänger for Price, equally trapped inside a forced, fake smile and inescapable, inhuman poses. The filmmaker himself appears in contrasting footage, in a long choker close-up with a finger stuck, seemingly forever, up his nose.

The third show, *Tell Me a Secret/Give Me a Kiss*, contains the infamous *Me Gut No Dog DOG* (1995), which resulted in unemployment for at least one poor soul who programmed it. Equally infamous, and also in this program, is *Sodom* (1989). Like all of Price's films, this hardcore "Biblical epic"-cum S&M porn flick exists in many versions. His refusal to let the work alone after it's made, his insistence on the "aliveness" of the film-ob-



Luther Price with melting ice cream in his film *Green* (1988).

ject, is one of the most exhilarating aspects of his work. In spite of the oppressive, claustrophobic imagery, the films have a strong sense of life. In *Sodom*, which will be double-projected, this sense comes partly from Price's consummate interventions, which here take the form of a literal film-within-a-film. He punched holes in the Super-8 frames and meticulously inserted the porn footage, which moves with jackhammer rhythm against the rapid-cut "Sodom" footage and a distorted medieval liturgy score.

The conflation of what look like screaming souls in hell with images of edgy queer sex was enough to get the film banned even from the allegedly sophisticated New York and San Francisco gay festivals, but Price's Boschian vision deserves a wide audience. This retrospective is a must-see for anyone interested in the best of progressive, obsessive American art. ▼

For more information, call SF Cinematheque at 558-8129.

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SFS's grand finale

Ode to joyous programming at Davies Hall

by Philip Campbell

Michael Tilson Thomas brought his fifth season as Music Director of the San Francisco Symphony to an exultant close last week with performances of Beethoven's massive Ninth. The ultimate work to mark an occasion, the wonderful choral finale also brought a pleasing consonance to MTT's splendid tenure here. This was the work that began his formal stay as leader of subscription concerts.

There was also the added touch of again using the mezzo-soprano from that memorable first rendition, the lustrous Michelle DeYoung. Comparisons ended there, however, for this was hardly the same kind of earth-shaking experience. The sum was considerably less than the parts this time around, and while the audience still stood for a predictably rapturous ovation, the two prior weeks of concerts were far more illustrative of why Tilson Thomas is such an important musical force in the Bay Area and the nation.

The evening began with typical promise, as the fearless maestro presented the SFS and North American premiere of Giacinto Scelsi's *Konx-Om-Pax* ("peace" roughly translated into three languages). This marked the orchestra's second foray into the remarkable sound world of the obscure avant-gardist; the first was the North American premiere of *Aion* in 1997. Once more, careful rehearsal and obvious enthusiasm revealed a wonderfully strange and deceptively simple music. Huge climaxes and static stretches of intense concentration forced

players and audience alike into an almost trance-like meditation. Ever the wily diplomat, Tilson Thomas prepared listeners by remarking that San Franciscans are most likely to tolerate and appreciate new sounds.

The message in his message worked, and the capacity crowd responded to the 20-minute piece with respectful attention (despite a few outrageous coughing fits) and applause that grew in intensity during the several curtain calls. *Konx-Om-Pax* is full of gorgeous sonorities and some very startling effects. The organist wails away amidst an orchestra that manages to sound like Tibetan Buddhist horns and blaring shofars. The mixed chorus chants "Om," entering, as in Beethoven's Ninth, during the last movement. The return to silence at the conclusion is wonderfully effective and lingering.

So if the Ninth didn't fare as well, it was still a thoroughly professional rendition. We have simply come to expect more of MTT in the way of personal vision. This was a rather faceless affair — neither mysterious enough at the outset, nor joyous enough at the conclusion. There were still some fine touches along the way. DeYoung and soprano Christine Brewer were just right, and young Russian bass Denis Sedov displayed a rather amazing projection in his intonation to the "Ode to Joy." That such a huge and deep sound could emerge from such a boyish face was a real attention-grabber.

The orchestral playing was more than acceptable, and Vance George's Symphony Chorus sounded full and balanced; they always do. If the slow movement seemed a little lumpy and the wonderful military band vignette in the finale was rather formal, the evening still brought the season to a rousing if unemotional close.

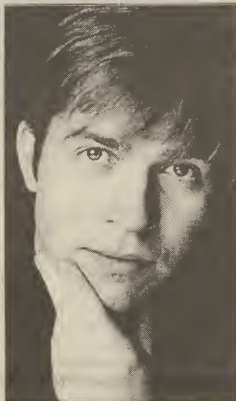
Revvng up

The two weeks of concerts that preceded the last week's were much more satisfying and a far better example of Tilson Thomas's ability to make a memorable concert out of seemingly disparate parts. He also had two very different and accomplished guest soloists to rev up excitement levels.

Eighteen-year-old violinist Sarah Chang did not make quite the same splash that she has previously, but her performance of Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 1 in D major was indeed better than

some of the reviews let on, and I admired her offbeat choice of repertoire. At least Chang is striving towards a more complicated communication with her audience, and she was not out of synch with conductor or orchestra.

Framing her appearance, MTT presented a gorgeous Debussy *Images pour orchestre* and a roof-raising *Amériques* by Edgard Varèse. The maestro wallowed in the virtuosity of both pieces, and his musicians gave him some of their best playing all season. Is it really Tilson Thomas who has coaxed such a sweet bloom and transparency from the strings, and such a gloriously full and focused sound from the horns? We think yes, and all praise to him for that. No more timid talk about a world-class orchestra — they are there.



Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes

Pianist Leif Ove Andsnes must also be singled out for his fabulously intelligent and sculptured performance of the mighty Brahms Piano Concerto No. 1 in D minor last month. It is rare to encounter such a fully-fleshed interpretation in the concert hall. Some players heighten the drama and slight the lyricism, or pound their way through without a caressing soul. Andsnes seemed to balance all the elements perfectly, and he didn't even appear to break sweat. I will be following his career with renewed interest and anticipation.

The concert featuring the princely young Norwegian pianist also glowed, from the opening Horn Concerto No. 2 in E-flat major by Richard Strauss, scrumptiously essayed by John Zirbel, Principal Horn of the SFS. This is Strauss at his witty Viennese best, and the cascade of delightful tunes found wonderful voice in Zirbel's creamy playing. The Schoenberg Five Pieces for Orchestra, Opus 16 followed as a tangy palette-cleanser, and MTT's preceding remarks were enough to make any cautious listener find new appreciation for Schoenberg's terse movements.

That is Michael Tilson Thomas's genius — to encourage music-lovers to experiment and learn to love all of the wonderful byways of the symphonic repertoire. In five years, he has generated more enthusiasm among players and concertgoers than I have witnessed in close to 20 years of visiting Davies Hall. This season flew by, and I look forward to the American Mavericks festival in June and the new season in September with keen anticipation. ▼



Violinist Sarah Chang

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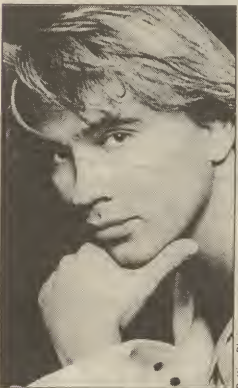


Star turns from opera's men

SF Opera's summer offerings, on disc

by Stephanie von Buchau

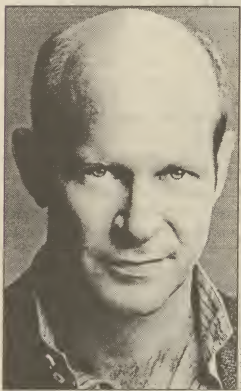
When the San Francisco Opera's 1999-2000 season resumes on June 2, you may notice something odd but delicious. Opera for centuries has been the realm of the female diva, yet the star turns at SFO this summer are male. Plácido Domingo sings three acts from three different operas with assorted sopranos. June 3 finds a further assortment of ladies panting over Siberian studmuffin Dmitri Hvorostovsky (Giovanni)



Dmitri Hvorostovsky

and Italian cutie Antonio Antonozzi (Leporello).

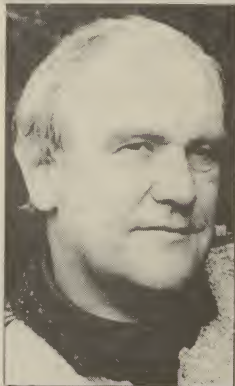
On June 10, the Welsh demigod Bryn Terfel plays Old Nick in *The Rake's Progress*, while dishy male alto Brian Asawa assumes the role of the bearded lady, Baba the Turk. (Asawa did this stunt for Swedish television, where it was wildly provocative; don't expect quite the same genderbending effect on the War Memorial's stuffy stage.) Even *Parsifal*, which opens on June 18 (for those not glued to the final round of the U.S. Open — hey, Tiger, Duval and Mickelson are as cute as anybody in opera), stars a quartet of Wagnerian leathermen: Tom Fox,



Tom Fox

Franz Grundheber, Kurt Moll and debutant Chris Ventris.

I'm reluctant to recommend a *Don Giovanni* recording; it's an opera like *La Bohème*, the first recording you learn it from will always hold your heart. Nowadays, we have two choices with Mozart, the old-fashioned big band thumpers I grew up on, or the leaner period-instrument style. For the former, I like Riccardo Muti (talk about testosterone), whose Mozart is always



Kurt Moll

edgy, sexy and volatile; his Giovanni, William Shimmell, shares the same traits (EMI Classics). For period, you're on your own. I own both Norrington (Virgin) and Gardiner (Archiv), and never listen to either.

As for *The Rake's Progress*, you can explore the elegant, bloodless composer-conducted version (Sony); Kent Nagano's weakly cast (except for Jerry Hadley's alert Tom) set (Erato); or the latest John Eliot Gardiner, with a superb Anne (Deborah York), the heavenly Ian Bostridge (this beautifully-colored, finely-textured tenor gives me all over goosebumps), and SFO's bouncing Bryn as Nick Shadow (Deutsche Grammophon).

Parsing 'Parsifal'

Then we get to *Parsifal*, an opera of which no crackpot connoisseur can have too many recordings. (I have 12.) Face it, if you like this opera in the first place — with its sicko text that should be given without superlatives so as not to scare the horses, and its sublime music — you're already more than a little nuts. It's a wonder that singing it doesn't send the artists around the bend: Kundry is almost always cast as a mezzo, yet she has handfuls of A-flats, A-naturals, B-flats and B-naturals in Act Two. (SFO goes with soprano Catherine Malfitano; it's the right idea, but it might be a tad late.)

The standard *Parsifal* in stereo is Knappertsbusch live from Bayreuth in 1962. I was there, but not at *Parsifal*, alas, being of the uninformed opinion that it was too long and slow for my taste. I still find this performance terribly retro, stodgy and "spiritual" in a pious manner. Plus, mezzo Irene Dalis can barely hit the notes; yes, Kundry is the devil, but she has to sound seductive some of the time.

All the modern *Parsifal* recordings have something to recommend them. Karajan's studio effort (Deutsche Grammophon), despite a horrendous Kundry, is autumnally moving; Peter Hoffman (*Parsifal*) told me how the maestro conducted the final pages with tears streaming down his cheeks. James Levine's 1985 live Bayreuth *Parsifal* (Philips) is superior to his Metropolitan Opera version (Deutsche Grammophon), though the latter, starring Domingo and Jessye Norman, is easier to find in stores. Waltraud Meier ("I just went down to the entire Berlin Philharmonic, and you didn't") is as good as you get



Plácido Domingo

in a mezzo Kundry, better for Levine than for Daniel Barenboim's Berlin version 15 years later (Teldec).

Finally, because this is such a nutty opera, I tend to prefer slightly eccentric recordings of it. As the classical music business in America dries up, however, some of these sets are available only in imports; or have a European friend locate them.

Karl Muck (1927-28; Naxos) — Less than half a century after the premiere, Muck recorded two hours worth of *Parsifal* with the Bayreuth and Berlin orchestras. A bonus is the sound of Bayreuth's unique cast iron bells, destroyed in WW II. None of the singers is spectacular, but tenors Fritz Wolff and Gotthelf Pistor would be welcome today.

Rudolf Moralt (1947; Myto) — The first-ever complete *Parsifal* on discs, this comes from an Austrian Radio account that doesn't quite match Moralt's similar *Ring* project. I'll keep it for the conductor's natural tempos and transitions, but his gut-busting, barn-burning singers, with Anny Konetzni's shrieking

Kundry at the bottom of the slag heap, are better suited to the strenuous *Ring*.

Herbert von Karajan (1961; RCA Red Seal) — Skip the studio performance for this live one from Vienna, with flexible, spiritual, theatrical leadership, Hans Hotter in his best-ever recorded Gurnemanz, the unforgettable Amfortas of Eberhard Waechter and a double-cast Kundry — Elisabeth Hogen as the crone and Christa Ludwig as the seductress. Yum.

Pierre Boulez (1971; Deutsche Grammophon) — Whoops, there goes Boulez's rep as a cold fish. This live Bayreuth set is the fastest, hottest *Parsifal* on discs, with a most musical hero (James King) and a most lubricious soprano Kundry, Gwyneth Jones, for whom the Act Two high notes are child's play. With her rich, come-hither sound, Jones could get a rise out of a cooked carrot.

Reginald Goodall (1985; EMI Classics) — Stately but poignant reading from Welsh National Opera, with the late Warren Ellsworth (*Parsifal*), and Meier (again) in the best voice of her three recorded Kundrys. Note: The Amfortas (Phillip Joll) graduates to Wotan in Seattle Opera's *Ring*, starting in August.

Herbert Kegel (1993; Koch International) — This live concert performance from Leipzig is easily the most livable *Parsifal* on disc. Kegel was a superb choral director, and the opera is heavy on choruses. He is powerful without being overbearing, sexy without vulgarity and spiritual without false piety. He also has a strong cast, with mellifluous Rene Kollo (*Parsifal*); one of the world's best vocal actors, Theo Adam (Amfortas); and an East German soprano (not a mezzo, notice) named Gisela Schreoter, who nails the second act, with a shapely, musical and accurate performance. ▼

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Dance events in National Queer Arts Fest

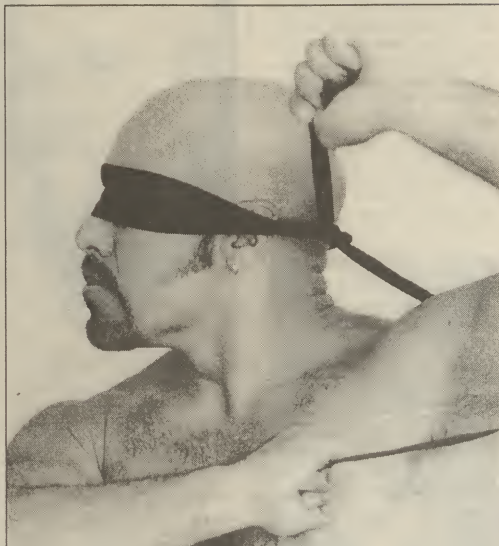
by Aimée Ts'ao

Recently, while attending a dance concert, a friend expressed frustration with the fact that although the choreographer was gay, all the dances he had made were interactions between heterosexual couples. Why doesn't he express his own situation honestly, why is he still pandering to the straight, mainstream audience?

Although some modern dance companies have blurred the gender lines somewhat, using techniques from same-sex partnering and androgynous representations to open explorations of queer themes, most classical and neo-classical ballet companies have yet to let the cat out of the closet. We don't have to wait for what may not be inevitable. The National Queer Arts Festival (NQAf) is back, beginning June 1, with a number of dance events that should satisfy a gamut of tastes.

The Joe Goode Performance Group will premiere *Undertaking Harry - Part II*, along with last season's *Gender Heroes - Part I*, both choreographed by Goode as an exploration of gender construction. Using the legendary gay rights activist Harry Hay as inspiration, Goode investigates the collision points between the ideal and what really lies behind the myth. Our relationship to larger-than-life personalities, how they influence the development of our individual identities, is a complex process along the road to self-discovery. Performances will run Thursday through Sunday, June 1-4 at 8 p.m. at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Theater, 700 Howard St. Tickets are \$20-25 at 978-ARTS.

NQAf also has within it a number of smaller festivals. This is an important reminder that sexual orientation is but one of our many identifying traits, and that the multiple layers create a fascinating array of perspectives. The Queer Latina/o Festival 2000 is presenting *Mi Angel Azul* (My Blue Angel), choreographed and danced by the internationally ac-



Ricardo Peralta in *Mi Angel Azul* (My Blue Angel)

claimed Ricardo Peralta from Mexico, Saturday, June 3, 8:30 p.m. at the Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St.

Wacky week

Another festival within the festival is the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival (SFLGDF), running from June 12-18. Called a *Week of Wild Wacky Wonderful Dance*, it offers a variety of events. Beginning with a panel discussion on the *Emergence of a Queer Aesthetic in Dance*, moderator Adele Prandini will keep panelists Tara Brandel, Jose Navarrete, Mercy Sibury and Yan-

on Saturday and Sunday, with works by Anne Bluethenthal/ABD, Brian Chung, Winifred Harris/Between Lines, Jose Navarrete, Tomi Paasonen/KunstStoff and Diane Shields. For tickets and info, call 826-4401.

Liquid Fire 2000 offers up a performance project, *Unleash the Fire*, with Veronica C. Combs directing a cast of ten lesbian/bisexual women of color in a combination of spoken word, poetry, music, song and dance, accompanied by the multicultural lesbian percussion group Librations. Catch it during two weekends, Thurs.-Sat., June 15-17, 8 p.m.;

Classical ballet companies have yet to let the cat out of the closet. We don't have to wait for what may not be inevitable.

nis Adoniou in line. This free event on Monday, June 12 starts at 5:30 p.m. and is followed by an *Evening of Queer Dance Films* at 7:30 p.m. for a nominal \$5. To be screened are: Samuel Topiary's *Atalanta*, Tomi Paasonen's *Nuderude*, Fawn Yacker's *Can You See Me Flying: A Portrait of Terry Sendgraff* and Yannis Adoniou's *Visitor and Framed* at Dancers Group, 3221 22nd St.

The dance part of the SFLGDF comes later in the week, June 15-18, 8 p.m. at Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. With a list of performers as long as a well-endowed hunk, you can't miss. Program I, *The Dance Bazaar*, a circus sideshow of freaks, fags, queens, lezzies, dykes, and live animal acts, will be presented Thursday and Friday, featuring Yannis Adoniou/KunstStoff, Tina Banchemo, Tara Brandel, Dance Brigade/Krisy Keefer, Abby Crain, Sara Felder, Wayne Hazzard, Charlie Hosgood, Tomi Paasonen/KunstStoff, Jesselito Bie/Steamroller, and Mary Watkins. Program II, *The Long and the Short of It*, consisting of commissions and re-stagings, is

Sun., June 18, 2 & 7:30 p.m.; Thurs.-Fri., June 22-23, 8 p.m.; and Sat, June 24, 2 p.m. at Som-Arts, 934 Brannan St. Tickets at the door or at 552-7709.

And for the three evenings preceding the Pride Parade, you'll find a unique performance experience at Fort Mason's Cowell Theater. AXIS Dance Company from Oakland will be premiering *The Ground, the Air and Places in Between*, with pieces choreographed by the internationally acclaimed Bill T. Jones, our own gender hero Joe Goode, aerial wizardess Joana Haigood and French-Canadian transplant Sonya Delwaide. The program should reveal new facets of this already very accomplished company of disabled and able-bodied dancers. Any preconceived notions you may have about integrated dance troupes will be left in the dust, as AXIS challenges all our ideas about limits, physical and otherwise. They prove once again that a narrow mind is the greatest impediment of all. Thursday-Saturday, June 22-24, 8 p.m. at the Cowell Theater, Fort Mason. Call 441.3687 for tickets. ▼

Mavericks

◀ Arts cover

15, thinks our music is certainly diverse; in a recent interview, he said that the broad range of personal styles is "like our civilization, which is inclusive rather than exclusive, and as rich as the Roman empire that way. And all this diversity releases people from a different mode and frees them up creatively. There has to be an independence of mind in American music, and if we do have a tradition, it's one of acquisition."

Harrison has acquired music from many sources — polkas, reels and stampedes (*estampies*) turn up as regularly in his music as waltzes and marches do in other composers'. His work is also enlivened by forms and elements from Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Javanese, Native American music, and that of medieval Europe and Persia. Amazingly, it never seems applied, but built up from within. Harrison also uses found objects as musical instruments, and he and his partner of 33 years, Bill Colvig, who died this March, have altered and made them, too. His loud and striking Concerto for Organ and Percussion (1972) on June 15 will feature some of these.

Hand to hand

Henry Cowell (1897-1965), who was gay, was also Harrison's teacher, friend and mentor, and he's had a huge impact on the American maverick tradition. Pianist, publisher and organizer, he encouraged countless musicians. His work drew from many multi-

Ruggles was once seen banging out the same chord for over an hour, to give it "the test of time."

cultural sources and methods long before it was fashionable. One of Cowell's most important inventions was tone clusters, large chords of adjacent notes played by fingers, fist, palm or whole forearm, and there will be lots of these in his 1942 Piano Concerto, which new music specialist Ursula Oppens plays on June 16.

Both Cowell and Harrison were very devoted to the granddaddy of American music, Charles Ives (1871-1954), now widely accepted as the first great American composer. Determined to forge a non-European identity for himself, he combined materials he heard like marching bands and patriotic songs into an almost cinematic montage, and who but Ives would write a hymn/jitterbug like *Piano Study #23*? Some of his very original piano pieces will be played June 7, the 1916 Symphony



Composer Earle Brown's *Cross Sections and Color Fields* will be performed on June 20.

#4 on June 9, and the 1902 Symphony #2 on June 20.

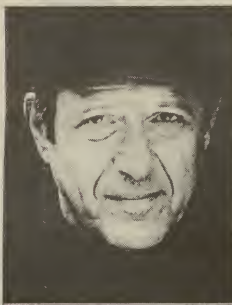
A less casual but just as imaginative way with sound marks the work of Carl Ruggles (1876-1971), whom Cowell once saw banging out the same chord for over an hour, to give it "the test of time." MTT, who has recorded Ruggles' small output, will lead his craggy, mystical, rarely played 1933 *Sun-Treader* on June 9.

Sections and Color Fields, which MTT leads with on June 20 with his New World Symphony, is a bit of a departure from his '50s "open form" works, which gave performers lots of interpretive, almost compositional freedom of choice. Like those, *Cross Sections* has "mobile" structures which the conductor determines on the spot. Brown's music demands the flexibility, timing and imagination one expects from a dancer or actor, and his piece, which sounds like a big band gone Zen, has an unfinished quality, like a Rauschenberg painting.

John Cage (1912-1992), with whom Brown was closely associated in the '50s, was a hugely influential figure whose works feel unfinished, too. Sometimes Asian-based or -inspired, they also try to eliminate the personality of the artist — sounds should be themselves. The new Naxos CD of *Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano* is a perfect example. Cage's 1982 *Dance Four Orchestras*

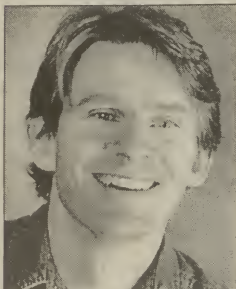
will be done on June 16, and the 1942 *Credo in US*, which he wrote for Merce Cunningham (his partner), is on June 7. His musical associate Morton Feldman (1926-1987) will have his 1957 *Piece for 4 Pianos* on June 7. Feldman's intensely quiet music has become almost popular since his death.

Steve Reich (1936-) is popular



Steve Reich

now, and his group plays his 1975 classic *Music for 18 Musicians*, and his video opera, *Hindenburg*, done with his wife Beryl Korot, on June 17-18. Reich performed in the premiere of *In C* (1964) by Terry Riley (1935-) at 321 Divisadero here, and MTT will do it on June 7.



Steve Mackey

Steve Mackey (1956-) will play his electric guitar in his concerto for the instrument on June 20, and he says there's a lot of libido energy in his work. Bad boy George Antheil (1900-1959) gets his own program



George Antheil

on June 11, as does good boy Copland (1900-1990) on June 23 and 24, preceded by Earl Robinson (1910-1991). And let's not forget the all-Ellington program (1899-1974) on June 10, which features the wild-as-Ives *Harlem* (1951). Composers may grow up and grow old, but what usually draws us to them is not gentility, but something dangerous and alive. ▼

Listen up

The mavericks have been widely recorded. The works of Cage, Cowell, Harrison and David Del Tredici can be found on CRI, and some of the same, along with Ives, can be heard on its new piano disc by Anthony De Mare, a fine and very out pianist.

Dennis Russell Davies' performance of Harrison's 3rd Symphony is on Music Masters; the work of Meredith Monk and Reich is mostly on ECM and Nonesuch, while Feldman's can be found on numerous labels, including New Albion.

Varèse complete is on London, and there's a new Brown CD on CRI and one on Newport Classics, with our own Contemporary Music Players. Mackey has appeared on Bridge, and MTT has done a new CD of his music. Copland is, of course, widely available, as is Ellington, both with his band and Faddis, who leads him here, has recorded his sacred music on Image and City Hall. ▼

The American Mavericks Festival runs June 7-24 at Davies Symphony Hall. For tickets, call 503-5474.

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Karen Akers appears at the Plush Room through June 3.

Karen Akers sings of her haunted heart

by Jim Van Buskirk

Karen Akers is the consummate cabaret chanteuse. Exuding class, confidence and charisma, she holds her audiences rapt with her well-chosen material, artfully woven into an evening filled with personal relevance.

Her newest act is called *Haunted Heart*, a tribute to Jo Stafford, who had a hit in 1950 with the Howard Dietz-Arthur Schwartz torch song. Fresh from the Algonquin Hotel's Oak Room, Akers is performing at the Plush Room, San Francisco's version of New York's upscale venue, through June 3.

The show's title refers to Akers' feeling that hers is a divided heart, pulled in several directions. Now living in London, she misses her husband when she performs in the States, but confesses to missing performing when she's in Europe. To demonstrate her multiple allegiances, she interweaves "J'ai Deux Amours," a song long associated with an expatriated Josephine Baker, with the traditional "Shenandoah."

A musical melange from a wide variety of composers, the set opens with "I'm Not Afraid" by Jacques Brel, and later includes "Marieke," another dramatic number by the Belgian songwriter. Akers, a devoted Francophile, frequently sings in French, but provides "subtitles" by including the English lyrics or by acting them out so explicitly that their meaning is completely comprehensible.

At her Plush Room appearance, Akers is sublimely soignée, long and lanky in a floor-length black sheath, its wide white labels abruptly cut off so that thin straps reveal her porcelain shoulders. A tiny bejeweled bow below the waist sparkles wittily. While I try to figure out if the frock is formal or fun, my boyfriend says simply, "It's very French," succinctly summing up the elements that make Akers unique. Her sensitivity and warm sense of humor add to a deliciously rich voice, enveloping the songs and transporting the audience on an exquisite emotional journey.

For one particularly poignant

pair of songs, she asks the audience to imagine her as an Englishwoman in Paris, unsuccessfully trying to get rid of a haunted heart. This is a wonderful setup for "Paris in the Rain" and "Paris Is a Lonely Town." The latter, by Yip Harburg and Harold Arlen, was originally sung by Judy Garland as a cartoon cat in *Gay Purr-ee*. Akers' accompanist, Don Rebic, artfully renders arrangements by Mike Abene and his own.

Handsome men

"Les Couleurs du Temps," a composition by Guy Beart, also includes lyrics in English by Francesca Blumenthal, whose "Lies of Handsome Men" could be a gay man's anthem. Jason Robert Brown's "Stars and the Moon," from *Songs for a New World*, is an evocatively cautionary tale of waiting for what we want, and then when we get it, realizing what we've missed. An unexpected "Feels Like Home" by Randy Newman perfectly demonstrates Akers' remarkable ability to showcase a composer in a fresh context. Trying to decide on a definition of

"home," she settles on a quote from Tennessee Williams: "the thing two people have between them."

At the end of the show, Akers offers a remedy to a haunted heart, the ability to start over, and then pulls out all the stops on the famous Piaf paean, "Non, Je Ne Regrette Rien." A standing ovation produced a pair of perfect encores: Stephen Schwartz' "Chanson" and another Piaf standard, "La Vie en Rose" (also recorded by Jo Stafford).

Among her many fans in the opening night audience were Akers' eldest son, and Donald Smith, in town coordinating the third annual West Coast Cabaret Convention, where she will appear. For a rare romantic rendezvous, take a beloved and treat yourself to a sophisticated soirée of beautiful music, magically rendered by a jewel in the cabaret crown. ▼

Karen Akers plays the Plush Room in the York Hotel through June 3. Tickets (\$25), call 885-2800.

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Some enchanted evenings

by Jim Van Buskirk

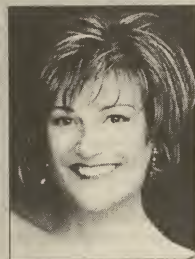
Life will indeed be a cabaret during the week of June 5 through 11, when the West Coast Cabaret Convention comes to San Francisco. For over a decade, this event sponsored by the Mabel Mercer Foundation has been held annually at venerable Town Hall in New York City. In its third local incarnation, it will take place at the Ira and Lenore S. Gershwin Theatre at 2350 Turk St.

What should you expect? The best and brightest of today's singers from the Bay Area, New York, and elsewhere, celebrating the great American popular songbook. What, exactly, does that mean? Classic songs from composers and lyricists like Johnny Mercer, "Yip" Harburg, Dorothy Fields, Jerome Kern, Harold Arlen, Richard Rodgers, Lorenz Hart, to which are being added more contemporary songwriters like Craig Carnelia, Amanda McBroom, Stephen Sondheim, John Bucchino, and John Wallowitch.

Some of the evenings have a specific theme: Monday is devoted to the lyrics of Ira Gershwin, Jazz on Wednesday, Friday celebrates Cole Porter's birthday, and on Saturday, "Cabaret Goes to the Movies."

All of the evenings boast internationally known stars, as well as rapidly rising artists. A singer takes the stage, does a couple of numbers, and before you can ask, "How Long Has This Been Going On?" they've acknowledged their applause, and the next performer is appearing from the wings.

Nationally known names like Karen Akers, Cybill Shepherd, Marian Seldes, Andrea Marcovici, Karen Mason, Rita Moreno and Julie Wilson will appear with local talents like Paula West, Val Diamond, Jacqui



Karen Mason

Naylor, Wesla Whitfield and Mike Greensill, Bobbe Norris and Larry Dunlap, Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia. Also listen for the deep tones of Lee Lessack, Willis Moore, Christian Nova, Eric Comstock, Phillip Officer, Jeff Harnar, and Charles Cermele. The list goes on and on.

Take advantage of this rare opportunity and treat yourself to a sampling of the best of cabaret. At press time, tickets were still available for Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday concerts. For information and tickets, contact Alyce Finell in New York, at (212) 734-6369. In



Julie Wilson

addition, many special performances will be taking place at the Larkspur Cafe Theater, (415) 924-6107, and the Plush Room at the York Hotel, (415) 885-2800. ▼

INTERVIEW

Two men and a baby

Jesse Green on being a Velvetene father

by Elisabeth Flynn

For writer Jesse Green, the decision to become a father was really nothing of the kind. A gay man in his late 30s, devoted Manhattanite, published author and inhabitant of quasi-bohemian circles, Green had resigned himself — not unhappily — to the role of godfather, and doting uncle to his nephew and niece. He loved kids, but could not conceive of any deeper role in their lives, nor was he certain he'd want one.

Green didn't "choose" fatherhood any more than he chose to fall in love with Andy, a middle-aged high school guidance counselor he met at a Long Island house party, one late spring afternoon. He admits only to an instant and purely instinctive attraction when he spotted Andy through the kitchen window, unloading what appeared to be a "bright, heavy package" for the party's two hosts. An attraction that quickly became fascination, when he realized what that package was, in fact — Andy's adopted 14-month-old boy.

You might say fatherhood chose Jesse Green. Exactly how it did, and how Green responded — cautiously, with high hopes and sincere, if at first somewhat tentative, joy — is detailed in *The Velvetene Father* (Villard Books), Green's tender and beautifully written memoir. Just released in paperback, *Velvetene Father* earned Green this year's Lambda Literary Foundation Award for biography/autobiography. In an interview last week from New York, where he and Andy now live with two sons, Erez and Lucas, Green shared the story behind the story of *Velvetene Father*, and his gratification at winning the Lambda Award.

Velvetene Father is about much more than the meeting of Jesse and Andy, although the complicated courtship of two men and a baby does comprise a significant part. As Green himself explains, through the book's initial stages, "I began to realize that it was really about how we become adults, and how our own family histories do and do not form the kinds of families we choose to make."

Adulthood in America tends to be defined by default, as it were, by the act of having children. For gay men, as for childless people of all stripes and shades, this necessarily complicates things. As Green writes: "For gay men especially — but for more and more heterosexual women, too — the question of what forms a mature identity has been left, since the days of the sexual revolution, unanswered. And often unasked."

Reality check

It seems Green has always been concerned with unscrambling the puzzle of self, with what makes us human, and what makes us real — a struggle by no means confined to homosexuals, though here it manifests itself in significantly different ways. His 1992 novel *O Beautiful* recounts the story of Martin and Matt, an odd couple who share an apartment one summer, involving every imaginable intimacy — except sex. Green shares one man's struggle to define himself in the face of disconnection, missed connections, unrequited love: "Oh, let me touch

one beautiful thing that lives on this earth — one beautiful thing — and have it not shrivel away," Martin pleads.

He may seem a cold fish on the outside — disciplined, longtime celibate, everything-in-its-place — but Martin's insides are practically teeming with life, and frustratingly ill-focused longing. A scene of him somewhat awkwardly rocking a newborn baby boy strikes me as remarkably prescient, given Green's later life and work.

"Although my friends will tell me that it was clearly in my mind that I would one day want to have children, I had no consciousness of that [at the time]," he says. "I don't know whether they were reading into my behavior something that wasn't true, or they were reading something that was true that I just wasn't aware of. I wrote that scene out of a feeling of loving children, and knowing the transformative powers that children have, and the feeling of loss that some people can have if they feel they can't have children, but I didn't actually feel it was anything personal."

Raised in Philadelphia's Main Line suburbs, and a graduate of Yale University, Green moved to New York City upon graduation, where he attended a graduate program in theatre, and soon began work as a music coordinator on Broadway shows. "At some point I realized that as much fun as it was, I wasn't doing anything that was something of my own, and I knew I probably never would, in that field," he says, "so I stopped."

Stopped working in theatre, and resumed a lifelong habit of writing, an arena in which he found he had much greater creative control, if more emotional outlay. In mid-1980s New York, with the simultaneous rise of crack and AIDS on the landscape, Green was working what he calls "the tear beat" — story after story of unwanted babies and hopelessly addicted mothers, of grieving parents and lovers, and outraged activists. "I would keep being drawn to these incredibly sad things, and eventually that takes its toll," he says. In his spare time, Green wrote fiction, published in *Mademoiselle*, *Mississippi Review*, and *The American Voice*, which eventually caught an agent's attention. The result was *O Beautiful*, named by *Entertainment Weekly* one of the 1992's "best first novels."

Self realization

After many years as a successful journalist and fiction writer, Green says the idea of writing about his own life came only gradually, as the parenthood phase was beginning. "I wouldn't say that I had the idea to write a book. I just realized that a lot was happening to me, and it seemed I had a unique or semi-unique perspective, because a lot of it was typical to parenting, but a lot of it was completely atypical," he explains.

"All my friends were very interested and wonderful and supportive and fascinated by what was going on, and among them was my agent. And at some point she just said to me, 'You know, you have to write about this, because if you don't, you'll never write about anything else,'" Green says. Unbelievably, he asked her, "Do you think anybody would want this book?"

As it turns out, people did, al-

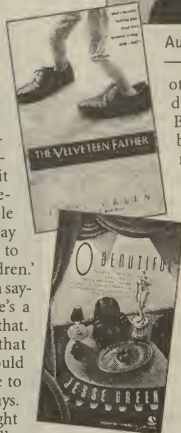
though the audience for *Velvetene Father* was not who publishers had imagined at first. "The publisher wanted the word gay in the subtitle," Green says, but in what he admits was an ironic twist, he disagreed. "My being gay was the prism of the story but it was not, I don't feel, the central fact of what I'm writing about."

While he certainly hoped for a gay and lesbian audience, Green worried the book might face resistance within the community, "because it might be seen as prescriptive. Some people think I'm saying, 'Gay people really now have to go out and have children.' And that's not what I'm saying, but I know there's a great sensitivity about that."

"I very much felt that this was a book that would appeal probably more to non-gay people," he says. In fact, he found straight women — "who really were in the same boat as I was" — to be most interested. Green says it was "disturbing" to find gay men occasionally confronting him on the subject, accusing him of somehow "betraying" his gayness by starting a family. "It's very sad that people who did do a tremendous amount for liberation can't make a further step to see that this is an-



Author Jesse Green



other part of liberation developing," he says. But, he says, "it has also been embraced" by members of the gay community, and recognition by the Lambda Literary Foundation is "very satisfying."

Despite the much-hyped political controversy over gay parenting, *Velvetene Father* has been overwhelmingly warmly received, a testament to Green's lyrical and intelligent prose — perhaps also a reflection of sheer statistical reality. As he relates in the book: "Fewer than half of American families, a report stated, now consist of a married man and woman, both of the same race, living in one home with their biological offspring. If this is true, and I hope it is, more of us are alternative than not, which really

means we all are."

Acceptance of *Velvetene Father* by a wide audience — like acceptance of Jesse and Andy's family — has been rewarding. But Green insists the real satisfactions of parenthood come from the inside. "I didn't want to use children as a way of being liked or having the stigma removed — although those things may happen, and that's nice, if it's the next step of understanding about people — but that was still external, as opposed to feelings which were internal," he says.

All of which comes back to the title, suggested by the classic children's story about a stuffed rabbit made real by the love of a child; and the transformation at the heart of Green's story: "To be real! — the phrase from an old gay disco tune haunts my parenthood. A child makes you real, if you meet him halfway; if you come to him when he comes to you. Becoming a parent — the pun can't be helped — means becoming apparent. Not to the law; the law can never make you real, though it can make the process easier or harder. Apparent to myself, I mean." ▼

The Velvetene Father: An Unexpected Journey to Fatherhood (Villard Books, 1999), now published in paperback. *O Beautiful* (Ballantine, 1992), just re-issued.

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Fri

Feel the new vibe

It was a balmy night in the **Castro**. I'd just come from **Cafe Flore**, when walking toward me down **Market Street** came one of my yoga buddies, Joseph, smiling brightly, his perfect skin and fine facial features gleaming with sweat under the streetlamps. He'd just popped out for a breather and a bit of dinner from the grand opening of the newly remodeled **Badlands** on 18th St. near Castro St., which in the 1980s had been one of my regular haunts. In fact it was the first gay bar where I ever picked up a man.

"Hey, you should check it out," exclaimed Joseph after giving me a warm hug. "It's great! It's really high tech, with lots of shiny metal, and big video monitors above the bar, and it's got a great dance space!"

I could tell he'd been effortlessly seducing the men inside with his slender, muscled torso and athletic grace. I'd seen him shower at the Central Y and knew what virtues he possessed.

What struck me was that, for the first time in ages, somebody in my life whose taste I respect was raving about a bar in the Castro. Oh, sure, I'd heard good words about **The Bar on Castro**, and the renovated **Daddy's and Harvey's**, etc., but an out-and-out rave? Well, this I had to inspect.

What happened to all the rustic wood? Gone. Thank goddess. The old **Badlands** had become a tomb. Memories of the long departed hit me every time I walked into it in the 1990s. It's hard to loosen up and feel sociable in such a gloomy environment, so I mostly stayed away.

Plus I prefer dancing to just hanging around cruising and getting drunk, so dance venues South of Market (or private dances anywhere) have been a much bigger lure.

With the newly renovated **Badlands**, Bacchus, the god of fermented/distilled spirits, as well as the god of ecstasy, has smiled favorably once more on the Castro. Every face in the place was beaming. Through the crowd I edged my way, admiring the men and the metallic sheen of the interior space, lit elegantly, glowing with video images easily seen but not distracting. The bar and bartenders were sleek and efficient. The pool table was still in its old place, but the old dive of a room (where I first made out in public) was neatly sheathed in metal. In the back, the dark room long favored by lurking vampires (I got my neck sucked there a few times) was now a shimmering dance space, with a nifty barricade neatly separating dancers from gawkers. Bodies galore were gyrating. Above it all loomed the fancy, translucent, fully equipped DJ booth in which could be seen a bouncing, hip-swinging, head nodding DJ whose name I didn't catch (his agent can call to complain), but who was spinning some hot, hot, hot progressive house, keeping the hot hopping.

The new **Badlands** ranks in my mind as a powerful symbol of a re-emergent Castro. It's not a civic monument, or a cultural center, it's a place to boogie. *Gawd*, how that brings back memories! Bringing the fun back to the Castro is about the best thing that could happen to the neighborhood. ▼

SomArts Cultural Center

Gay Asian Pacific Alliance (GAPA) presents "Four Seasons: Queer Asian Pacific Lives in Focus," an original staged production spotlighting GAPA's resident theater, dance and choral ensembles. Written and directed by Duy Nguyen. A collaboration between GAPA Theater and the UC Berkeley based Theater RICE. \$15 (\$10 GAPA members & supporters). 8pm. Also on June 3. 934 Brannan St. Phone: 282-GAPA. Surf: www.gapa.org.

Jon Sims Center

"Ron Jones Storytelling Workshop," featuring Pulitzer Prize-nominated author and renowned storyteller and performer Ron Jones. \$35 (advance only). 1-5pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th & S. Van Ness). 554-0402.

848 Community Space

Nine evenings of improvisational dance featuring Ann Woodhead & Tom Truss + Good Company. Watch the dancers swirl and twirl to new and classical music in this intimate space. \$7-\$10. 8pm. Weekends thru June 18. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). (510) 594-4033.

ODC Theater

Mobius Operandi present an evening of both improvised and composed music played on the astounding electro-acoustic instrument/sculptures built by award-winning sound engineer Oliver DiCicco along with ensemble members Jasen Reiner, Pamela Winfrey and Christine Winn. \$15. 8pm. 3153 17th St. 863-9834. Surf: www.odcdance.org/theater.

Venue 9

FoolsFury presents "Virtual Motion," the premiere of a new music theater work by David Rodwin, directed by Valeria Vasilevski. In this one-man "Hyper-Opera," Rodwin plays both Mike and Amy, who fall in love but are terrified to tell one another. \$12-\$16 sliding \$10 students/seniors. 8pm. Weekends thru June 10. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom). 248-1918.

Magic Theatre

Preview: Emma Donoghue's *Kissing the Witch*, a revisionist and comedic retelling of five traditional fairy tales. Donoghue writes about women, treacherous, courageous, openly sensual — some lesbian, some not — and puts them at the center of fantastical tales that never end "happily ever after." \$15 previews (June 2, 3, 7 & 8). Opens June 9, 8:30pm. Bldg. D, Ft. Mason Center. 441-8822. www.magictheatre.org

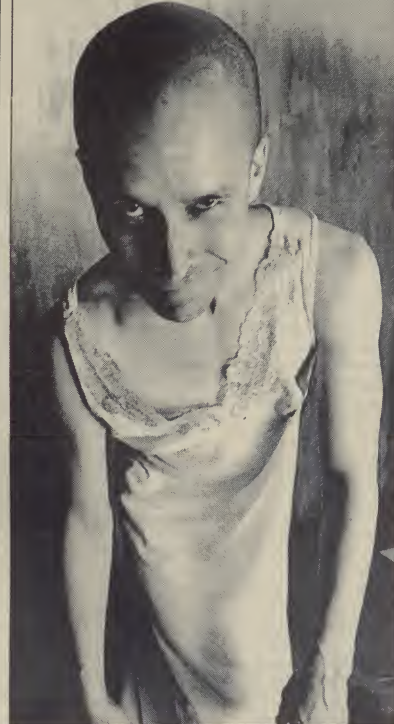
SFMOMA

Opening: "Walker Evans," the first comprehensive retrospective of the celebrated American photographer (1903-1975). \$9 (\$6 seniors; \$5 students). 11am-6pm daily (except Wed.). Free 1st Tuesday of month. 357-4000. Surf: www.sfmoma.org.

Intersection for the Arts

"FunnyHouse of a Negro," by Adrienne Kennedy, directed

Are you a nonconformist? Then head to the Tenderloin for the "In The Street" festival. See Saturday.



by Margo Hall. It tells the story of Negro-Sarah, a young woman tormented by her socio-historic reality — a fun-house world mired in social constructions and impositions based on race. \$9-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Thru June 11. 446 Valencia St. (near 16th St.). 626-3311.

Diego Rivera Theatre, City College

U.S. premiere: *Simplicius!* a 1935 opera by Karl Amadeus Hartman, banned by the Nazis. Based on Johann Grimmshausen's 17th century novel, *Simplicius Simplicius* ("The Simplest Simpleton"), it traces the journey of a simple shepherd through the disasters of *The Thirty Years' War*. \$20 (\$10 students/seniors). 8pm. Also on June 3, 9, & 10 (plus 5/11 at 2pm). 50 Phelan Ave. 239-3132.

Yerba Buena Center

Joe Goode Performance Group performs "Undertaking Harry" and "Gender Heroes—Part I," an evening-long exploration of gender construction. Part of the Nat'l. Queer Arts Festival. \$20-\$25. 8pm. Thru June 4. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 700 Howard St. 978-ARTS.

Copra Crane, Pier 84

Jo Kreiter's Flyaway Productions presents "Copra Dock Dances" on the abandoned Copra Crane at Pier 84. Suspended from ropes attached to the five-story-high structure, Kreiter's dancers fly, swing, and fall from great heights. Electronic soundtrack by audio artist Pamela Z. Free. Two shows daily: noon & 2pm. Thru June 4. Islais Creek Channel (1 block south from the intersection of Cesar Chavez and Indiana). 643-0468.

Hopland Women's Festival

A women-only music, comedy,

crafts, workshops and fun event. It takes place June 2-4 on a secluded 560-acre woman-owned ranch in Hopland, Calif. (2 hrs. north of SF). Performers include Kindness, a "rocktronica" group with an energetic and passionate stage show. \$98 women 18 & up; \$25 girls 17 & under; under 5 free. Tix include camping space plus some meals. (707) 523-9593. Email: hopland@aol.com.

Esta Noche

"Miss and Mr. Mexico Beauty Pageant," featuring special guests Alexis Miranda, Marbela, Mitzy Lee, and Marisela, emceed by Carla Gay and Tony. With Uva Luna and DJ Lobo. 9pm. 3079 16th St. 861-5757.

Marlena's

"Marlena's Girls," a lively drag cabaret featuring exciting female impersonators,

hosted by Toby, former Empress of San Jose. With guest appearances by "En Drag" performers. No cover. 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). 864-6672.

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together host their Monthly Chat Night. Topic: International LGBT rights. Refreshments; no-host bar. Free. 7-9pm. 1354 Harrison St. (at 10th St.). 2nd floor. 675-0201.

Jezebel's Joint

Opening reception: "A Taste of Sin," a selection of pop paintings by Sharon ("Queen of B-Paintings") Leong. Images of erotic freaks, bad boys and girls, transies and outsiders. With Super Duper Freaky Daddy Dave. 7pm-2am. 510 Larkin (at Turk). 345-9832.

Sat

Mission Cultural Center

Opening reception: "Queer Latina/o Festival 2000" visual art exhibit, a collection of cultural expression through sculpture, painting, photography and much more. Curated by Virginia Denavidez and Xavier (Chico) Garza. Plus an archives exhibit in collaboration with the GLBT Historical Society. \$3. 6:30-8:30pm. The festival continues with numerous events through June. 2868 Mission St. (at 24th St.). Info: 648-3702; www.queerlaco.org. Tix: www.queerlaco.org.

SF Main Public Library

The library's James C. Hormel Gay & Lesbian Center and *The New York Times* co-present a reading with Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Natalie Angier, author of *Woman — An Intimate Geography*, a finalist for the National Book Award. A mesmerizing tour of the female anatomy and physiology. Free. 2-4pm. Latino Hispanic Meeting Room. Info: Robert Giannasca, 437-4859.

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival. Two events. First, at 7pm, political, pissed-off poet, performer and spoken-word pioneer John Giorno, the sleeper in Warhol's *Sleep*. He'll read, gossip, and remember Warhol, Keith Haring, William S. Burroughs, and Robert Rauschenberg, among others. \$15. Second, at 9pm, comedienne Karen Williams takes to the stage for an evening of solo comedy. Co-sponsored with the Int'l. Institute of Humor and Healing Arts. \$20. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org.

Comedian Margaret Cho and E*Trade's Kathy Levinson are the honored guests at the 11th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. Nominees for Outstanding Digital Journalism include ABCNews.com, CNN.com, MSNBC.com and Salon.com; entertainment nominees include Melissa Etheridge, Indigo Girls, MeShell Ndegeocello and Pet Shop Boys. \$175 (\$375 VIP). 50 Third St. Info: www.glaad.org

Argent Hotel

Comedian Margaret Cho and E*Trade's Kathy Levinson are the honored guests at the 11th Annual GLAAD Media Awards. Nominees for Outstanding Digital Journalism include ABCNews.com, CNN.com, MSNBC.com and Salon.com; entertainment nominees include Melissa Etheridge, Indigo Girls, MeShell Ndegeocello and Pet Shop Boys. \$175 (\$375 VIP). 50 Third St. Info: www.glaad.org

Cohen Alley, Tenderloin

"In The Street: SF Street Theater Festival," two afternoons of aerial choreography, belly dancing, hip-hop, Taiko percussion, multimedia-art presentations, Capoeira, circus acts, poets and street theater. Free. Noon-5pm. Also on June 4. Cohen Alley, located in the 500 block of Ellis Street btwn. Leavenworth & Hyde. 255-5971.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Revival: "Torch Song Trilogy" by Harvey Fierstein, directed by Ed Decker. The play tracks Arnold Beckoff's search for love, respect and tradition in a world that seems not especially made for him. \$13-\$22. 7:30pm (2pm Sun.). Thru July 15. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). 861-861-8972.

Jon Sims Center

Drag actor Trauma Flintstone unearths the past and sheds light on the present in "Return to the Caffé Cino," a workshop production. Trauma and a cast of five present an evening of terse one-act plays dating from New York City's Lower East Side in the pre-Stonewall era. Discussion with Flintstone follows. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLFO). 8:30pm. 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St.). Surf: www.jonsimsctr.org

Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Santa Rosa

"6th Annual Lesbian and Gay Pride Comedy Night," starring Kate Clinton and Scott Silverman. Part of Sonoma County Pride Weekend. ASL interpreted. All seats reserved. \$30 with post-performance reception with comics and VIP seating. 8pm. 50 Mark West Springs Road, Santa Rosa. Tix: (707) 546-3600 or BASS. Surf: www.lbc.net

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

Trumpeter Ellen Seeling leads the 17-piece Montclair Women's Big Band. Composed of the best women jazz musicians in the Bay Area. \$25 adv.; \$28 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. (510) 339-1832.

Dolores Park

"Change Your Mind Day," an afternoon of music, poetry, contemplative exercises and introductory meditation practice from a variety of Buddhist traditions. Featuring poets Michael McClure and Ted Sauer, DJ Cheb I Sabbah, Tibetan horns by Karma Moffett, and much more. Presented by Tricycle, the Buddhist review. Free. 12:30-5:30pm. 19th St. & Dolores. Info: 820-3203; surf www.tricycle.com.

Concourse Exhibition Center

"Art Deco — 60s Sale," featuring Art Nouveau, Art Deco, and vintage western furniture, accessories, rugs, art, dinnerware, pottery, jewelry, clothing, books and col-



Cambron Williamson and Emily Ackerman update outmoded fairy tale heroines in Emma Donoghue's *Kissing the Witch* at Magic Theatre. See Friday.



Matt Shyka and Tom Truss will join other dancers to improvise moves at 848 Community Space. See Friday.

David Gilmore

lectibles from the 40s, 50s & 60s. Vintage fashion show at 2pm. \$8 (\$6 Deco Society members). 10am-6pm. Also June 4 11am-5pm. 8th & Brannan streets. Info: (650) 599-DECO.

Yerba Buena Center

"The Friends of Photography Benefit Auction 2000," featuring 195 works by Ansel Adams, Imogen Cunningham, Nan Goldin, Annie Leibovitz, Michael Light, George Platt Lynes, Eadweard Muybridge, Sebastiao Salgado, Baron Wilhelm Von Gloeden and others. \$50 including catalog. 5pm cocktail reception; 6pm live auction (free previews Fri., June 2, noon-5pm & today 10am-3pm). The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. Reservations: 495-7000, ext. 324. Surf: www.friendsofphotography.org.

Braunstein/Quay Gallery

Opening reception: Works by Ann Carter (new paintings and tear drop installations reflecting the symbolism of the Surrealist eyeball) and Cork Marcheschi (high-voltage electrical installations involving sound, light, gravity and the basic sense of raw energy). Free. 3:30-5:30pm. 430 Clementina (btwn 5th & 6th sts.). 278-9850.

Club NV

Jito.com presents "Impact," with DJ Lewis inaugurating the release of "Tremor," his new CD on the Magnitude 2000 label. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. 9pm-3:30am. 214-w/D. 525 Howard St. (btwn 1st & 2nd). Tix at Body & Undercover. 552-5900.

Sun

SomArts Gallery

Opening reception: "Odyssey and Underworld," an exhibition of works by Jerome Caja, Charles Sexton, and Thomas Plageman. Part of the Nat'l. Queer Arts Festival. Donations welcome. 5-7:30pm. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.).

Hertz Hall, Berkeley

Opening concert: the Berkeley Festival & Exhibition, an eight-day showcase of medieval and Renaissance music. Two events: First, at 3pm, "Venice 1600," featuring the Collegium Musicum, the UC Chamber Chorus, The King's Noys, and organist John Butt. \$26. Second, at 8pm, Teatro Bacchino stages Handel's *Aminta* & *Filide*, replete with historically informed gesture and staging. It's a pastoral tale of the pleasures and pains of love and

courtship. \$20. The festival continues thru Sun., June 11. Tix: (510) 642-9988; surf: <http://bfj.berkeley.edu>

A Different Light

Singer/songwriter Doug Stevens performs selections from his new CD, *From Christopher to Castro*. Free. 1pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Mon

Piaf's

QComedy.com openly presents "Gay Comedy Showcase at Piaf's," hosted by the indestructible Pippi Lovestocking, with Mary Matthews, Julia Jackson, Regina Stoops, Miracle Malone, Gary Cannon, David Guiney, Fred Van Allen and Dominic Borelli. \$5. 8pm. 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 541-5610.

Tue

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival presents accordionist Pauline Oliveros, one of the most important composers of our time. She explores unusual tunings to create sonic landscapes. A collaborative improvisation with India Cooke and Karolyn Van Putten. \$15. 8pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Lab

"Griffriends," an eclectic evening of women's song from rock to performance art to sonic choreography. Hosted by Kathy Kennedy, director of the innovative women's choral group Esther. \$5-\$8 sliding. 8pm. 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

A Different Light

Christopher Bram reads from *The Notorious Dr. August: His Real Life and Crimes*, set in the years from the Civil War to the early 1920s, about a pianist and his love for an ex-slave. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Wed

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival presents performance poet Sini Anderson (founder and co-director of "Sister Spit's Ramblin' Road Show"), sound artist Cari Cambell, and photographer Rebecca McBride in an evening of spoken word with cutting-edge original sound scores and a

live slide show. 8pm. \$7. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Financial District

The Breast Cancer Fund's "Men At Work" campaign holds a mid-day march and rally, including city officials and many dignitaries. The aim is to recruit more men to fight against breast cancer. March begins at 11:30am at 345 California St. and proceeds to Justin Herman Plaza. Rally with entertainment and speakers at noon. 543-2979. Surf: www.breastcancerfund.org.

SF Camerawork

"Stretch: Between Time and Technology," a panel discussion about art and technology, with panelists Steve Anker (Cinematheque), Bruce Cannon (an Oakland artist working with technological materials), Lisa Jevbratt (curator for NetWork, the online arts program at New Langton Arts), and noted art critic/curator Glen Helfand. In conjunction with "Timekeepers," an exhibit running through June 24. 7:30pm. 115 Natoma St. 764-1001.

A Different Light

Nancy Abrams reads from and signs copy of her memoir, *The Other Mother: A Lesbian's Fight for Her Daughter*. Abrams tells of her harrowing struggle as a lesbian co-parent who loses custody of her daughter. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Metropolitan Community Church

Reading and book signing: Neil Kaminsky, LCSW, on his groundbreaking new book, *When It's Time to Leave Your Lover: A Guide for Gay Men* (Harrington Park Press). Co-sponsored by A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 7pm. 150 Eureka St. 431-0891.

Thu

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

National Queer Arts Festival presents acclaimed composer, singer, filmmaker and choreographer Meredith Monk, a pioneer in extended vocal technique and interdisciplinary performance. She'll lecture, demonstrate her work, and answer questions. \$15. 7pm. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

The Lab

Xeno, composed of several former members of AWD, perform choreographed dance, fireplay, and relentless

This Week's Dinner Specials



Grilled 12 oz. New York Steak with bearnaise sauce, onion rings and crispy french fries or baked potato\$13.95

Fresh Atlantic Salmon grilled or poached with white-wine-lemon-dill sauce, vegetable and mashed potatoes or chef's rice\$12.95

Chicken Cordon Bleu stuffed with honey-baked ham & fontina cheese served with vegetable, chef's rice or mashed potatoes\$10.25

Grilled Pork Chops stuffed with apple-raisin dressing, mashed potatoes & gravy\$11.75

Prime Rib au Jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish\$13.95

Fred Calamari with cocktail sauce\$6.75

Patio Cafe

531 Castro Street, between 18th/19th
Breakfast/Lunch served from 9:00 AM
Dinner Served from 5:00 PM

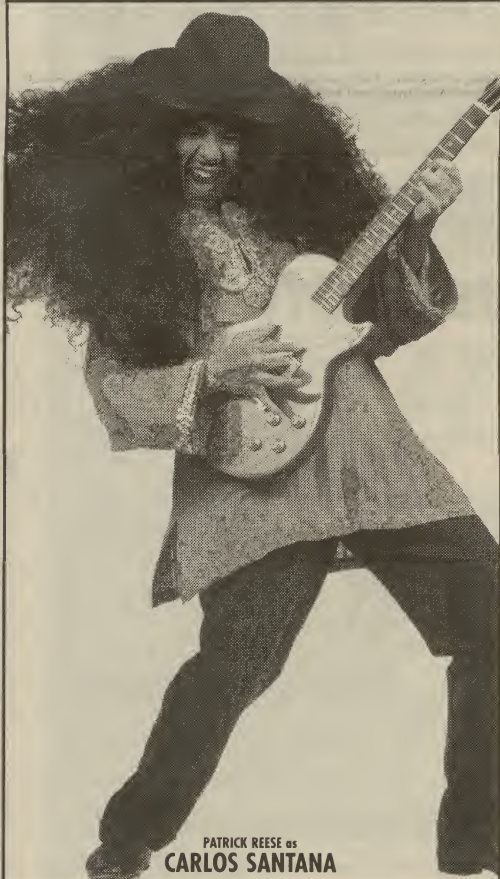
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SEE THE THING ITSELF!

Ohio man wins IML 2000 in Chicago Hearts of leather

by Mister Marcus

Bedlam erupted in the aging Congress Theatre on Chicago's west side at almost midnight on Sunday, May 28, when IML founder and executive producer Chuck Renslow announced that the judges had selected Mike Taylor of Cincinnati, Ohio to be International Mr. Leather 2000—the first major title holder of the new millennium. Taylor, a 38-year old marketing manager for a major U.S. corporation, competed in Chicago with 62 other leather men from around the U.S., Canada and Europe.

A horde of gay paparazzi rushed the stage to capture the historic moment, and when the flash bulbs started popping to capture the scene, it looked like a 4th of July celebration.

Only moments earlier, Mr. Pistons Leather Scott Bloom had been named the first runner-up, and Bob "Puppy" Pedder (Mr. Boston Leather), the 2nd runner-up.

The IML class of 2000 was a plethora of handsome, stone-chiseled, articulate leather men who titillated spectators both on and off stage. Even a casual observer could detect it was going to an exercise of intense probing for judges Bruce Chopnik, Amy Marie Meek, Woody Bebout, David Kloss, Thom Dombkowski, Jimmy Dohr, Eduardo Bettega-Corral and Lauger Valentin. It was a pleasure for me to work with this distinguished group of people.

It was obvious from the beginning that several hundred hours of preparation faced us. The personal interviews were both enlightening and educational. What emerged in answer to the questions was a banquet of opinions and observations that came from the minds and hearts of the men. It was fitting that the winner came to Chicago to compete bearing the title, Mr. Heartland Leather, a new title that emerged during this contest "season." It was the brainchild of for-



The Cincinnati Kid, Mike Taylor (Mr. Heartland Leather) triumphed over 62 other men to be named International Mr. Leather 2000 last Sunday, May 28 in Chicago.

mer Mr. Ohio Valley Leather Maverick Reynolds of Columbus, Ohio, who had himself competed at IML only last year.

The European and Canadian contestants provided spectators and fellow competitors a virtual emporium of eye candy. On stage, they incited the audience to a high degree of lust. This is not to detract from our own leather brothers. It was obvious that several hundred hours of pumping iron had been expended among them. For all contestants, the leather gear was impeccable. The audience loved every minute of the show.

The opening number featured some very talented leather-clad dancers who executed precision movements set to music that enhanced the very butch choreography, complete with cigars and pronounced seductive moves.

Bill Stadt, executive director of the whole show, created a production most fitting to the business at hand. The affair was thoroughly streamlined. The in-synch masters of ceremony, the ubiquitous Frank Nowicki and Tom Stice, executed each segment with precision timing. The teaming of these two was a coup. They kept the show moving with appropriate ad libbing and dialogue that enhanced the appearances of the men in com-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, June 1

All 13 men who won a spot on the 2001 Bare Chest Calendar will compete for the cover spot at the Powerhouse tonight at 2100. This is always a big crowd night for the finale of the calendar season. Don't miss it!

Basket contest at The Edge. Always a fun time if you're into big baskets. Danny Williams emcees and the Old Bag cavorts casually.

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 2000-2300. It's only \$7.

Bingo returns to the Castro at MCC. It's not free, but the first 50 through the door will get a good luck charm. Click on www.TheSisters.org.

Sunday, June 4

Hail the heroes! Mr. SF Leather Lance Gear was in 8th place at Int'l. Mr. Leather last Sunday. A welcome home party at the Edge tonight for him, Bob Miller and Rob Esmond, from 1800-2200, for only \$7. Bid on a dream date auction with Lance, Bob and Rob.

ACLC presents "Swing Into Leather" tea dance at the Bench & Bar in Oakland, from 1600-1900, with entertainment, dancing, a dating game and no fee. To benefit food etc. for Lavender Seniors of the East Bay.

Wednesday, June 7

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets at Club Eros

at 1930. Topic: Leather/Kink/Fetish and the Internet, featuring Frank Strona and that sassy Wolf Sterling.

Weekend June 9-11

San Jose Gay Pride weekend; there'll be a big leather zone at the booth area. Leather people of all persuasions are invited and welcome.

In Phoenix, Arizona, the Southwest Drummer man and Drummer boy will be chosen. No details at my deadline. Contact: tuffstuff@tuffstuffleather.com.

Saturday, June 10

Cal Eagles MC weekend run to Lake Berryessa. Meet at Daddy's at 0930 and depart at 1000 with \$\$\$ for gas, tolls and lunch. Click on: www.blackkiris.com/~CalEagles.

Sunday, June 11

Third Annual Shanti Pride Bike Ride 2000. \$25 registration fee. Register by phoning 674-4720. Meet at the Eagle at Noon, depart at 1300 for the Poker Run.

There's supposed to be a Russian River Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy at the Guerneville Eagle, but it seems Mr. Katz is anti-public relations.

BAs (Bay Area submissives) meet in the Castro from 1300-1500. For invite and location, call 487-9769 or email: SFLthrboly17@aol.com.

POLKSTRASSE

Baby's got back

by Sweet Lips

Royal Baby 2000, aka Darrell Wright, presents a fundraising party to benefit kids with leukemia on Saturday, June 10, starting at 2 p.m. with Empress Suzie Wong as emcee, at The New Gold Room, 939 Geary St.

You are invited to attend a birthday bash for Johnny Wise on Thursday, June 1 (that's tonight!), from 6 p.m., at The New Gold Room. The buffet is by Chef Dennis ("With Eight You Get Eggroll") Tyler.

Our friend Ann Dolynick is

planning to do her 14th AIDS Walk this July, and because this may be the last time she ever does the Walk, Ann is having an Appreciation Party to thank

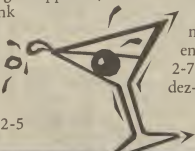
her former sponsors and recruit new ones. The party is at the Club Rendez-Vous on Saturday, June 17, from 12-5 p.m., catered by

Chef You Know Who. So far, Ann has raised \$16,600, and she wants to break records.

Plank walk: The popular Suzie

Cartwright is still on the plank at Diva's on Post St. Looking great, Suzie! And of course, the unsinkable Ronnie Lynn is on the plank Friday mornings, and weekends and Mondays from 2-7 p.m. at the Club Rendez-Vous.

We have lost so many wonderful people lately, and it's a crime that we don't all, every last one of us, have a will. Listen to your auntie Sweet Lips, and take the time to make one, now. ▼



Cocktail Hour



These 13 men will compete for the cover of the 2001 Bare Chest Calendar tonight (Thursday, June 1) at the Powerhouse. The judging gets underway at 2100.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

petition.

While the tally masters were totaling the scores, disco diva Bonnie Pointer blasted forth with her fast-paced musicianship. Her gyrations, vocal range and suggestive movements managed to incite even the most rigid old guard leathermen into a frenzy of improvisational dancing that rocked the theatre and was a sight to behold. At last the old guard and the new guard were in total accord.

The leather bars, restaurants and leather-oriented businesses smiled all weekend as greenbacks and plastic sales soared higher and higher. The leather mart on three levels of the host hotel were packed body to body, and safe to say, the shopkeepers had little left over.

And the lobby of the hotel? Unless you've been an IML celebrant, never in your wildest imagination could you envision the cruising, laughter and dialogue that continued non-stop for almost 96 straight hours. Every conceivable type of men traversed the halls, the main lobby and the elevators, which faltered on more than one occasion as frantic maintenance people got them up and running so everyone could get where they had to be.

The remaining 17 finalists from the IML Class of 2000 were: Kevin Clancy, Mr. Cell Block Leather, Chicago; Mark Frazier, Mr. Dallas Leather; Howard Hao, Mr. Ottawa-Hull Canada; Lance Gear, Mr. San Francisco Leather; eStevan de Castro, Toronto Leatherman; Mark Chipman of San Diego; Peter Wallace of Norway; Jeff Wach, Mr. Los Angeles Leather; Chuck Lance, Mr.

Louisiana Leather; Mark Cady, Mr. Philadelphia Leather; Gary Vandeventer, Mr. DC Eagle; John Pijnen of Holland; Lee Wheeler of Grand Rapids, Michigan; Wim Clemens of Amsterdam; Steve Duvall of Fort Lauderdale; and T.C. Haskins, Mr. Triangle Denver.

On a scale of 1-10, IML 2000 was a solid 10. All 3,000 leather people in attendance demonstrated respect for the contestants by listening quietly and intently to every word of the speeches. They lustily applauded the stunning physique portion of the show. The tribe's orderly conduct was a tribute to the leather family, an extremely diverse array of humanity's finest.

Congratulations to Mike Taylor, and to all you winners. Bless all your big leather hearts! ▼

Next Week: IML 2000 - Part II

Bears give bucks to community



Proceeds from February's International Bear Rendezvous were distributed by the Bears of San Francisco during a dessert reception last Thursday, May 25. Representatives of We Care Bay Area, Bay Area Health Support and Education Services, and FTM International each received \$7,000. The BOSF have distributed over \$125,000 to 15 organizations during the past six years of the Bear Rendezvous.

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PARTING GLANCES

Thurs 4-27 10&1030 Market St.
Me: Redhaired lad with goatee. You: Intense handsome dark haired businessman. We looked & smiled. Later you passed me by Stacey's, smiled again. I'd really like to... ☎ 71890

Kirk@Yerba Buena Gardens
I finally met you. I think you're very cute. Can we start a friendship? Floyd ☎ 71889

Bald Guy In A McDonald's On 511.
I am looking (?) Asian man that wishes that I would have had the balls to say something to you. Call me please. ☎ 71953

28th Ave. & Geary Tues Am May 2
You- WM walking up 28th with coffee in hand. Me- WM walking down. Turned and looked lots of times. In the neighborhood? Call. ☎ 71926

Last Car On Bart-Wed Rush Hour
Me, sitting reading BAR, you standing near by. Exchanged sexy glances. Lost you at 12th St. When I met a friend-Bummer! Would love to say hello. ☎ 71956

Met At Metreon 5/5- "Gladiator"
Hector, you & friend (?) accepted my invite to sit together. Talked briefly after film. Didn't get your number (heavy sigh!) Would like to see you again. Dinner? Scary movie? Robert. ☎ 71927

My Navy Blue Modo Frames
Caught your eye at Market Street Safeway. But you need to look again to see if the fit is correct. When can we make that appointment? ☎ 71925

Hip Boots Blow Buddies Sun 5/7
You: leather "dad" with beard and tall boots; me: s/p hair, mustache, eager cocksucker. We met outside, I took a smoke break. Need a suck slave? ☎ 71955

Santiago 5-3
18th Street laundry at Noe. You: cute GAM, wearing Hawaii t-shirt. Me: behind you in line, sunglasses & green shirt, wish I said hello. Talk? Sometime? ☎ 71954

Pleasuredome 5/14 Duncan
I'm glad you said hello, and I love watching you dance. Would you whisper in my ear again. Jon ☎ 71952

F Line Castro & 17th
You: Tall, lean, short hair, handsome. Me: older, not best shape, grey hair, green polo bag. May I send you flowers? ☎ 71973

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Passion Sought
I'm an HIV+ top 48, 5'8" 140lbs, brn/brz, mustache seeking a stocy total fisting and passion. ☎ 71897

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 55 Or Over
For LTR. I am average build, prefer non-smoker & clean shaven. ☎ 71872

ISO Uncut Asian Hunk/Son/Lover
Ub sweet/smart/ emp/end/cuddler/ready, 4 trim GW daddy 39: addic/cocksucker-rimmer/sweat off balls/licker/piss drinker/Phi Beta Kappa/catch of your life. ☎ 71873

"Grandpa" Seeks "Grandson"
To age 30, to care for & help get going in life. I am sincere- you too- let's talk. Any race good. ☎ 71900

Win Win Situation
Good-looking, mid-thirties, WM (6'1", brown hair, green eyes, height-weight proportionate, clean-shaven), conventional looking / liberal thinking, college teacher, masseur, warm, sincere, sensually adept, communicative. Mediterranean looks a plus. Let's talk possibilities! ☎ 71875

32 WM Cute Muscular Bottom
Br/g 5'7", 175lbs. HIV+ into cycling, swimming, weights, music, food, laughter, sex. ISO GM 25-45, any race. Well built, masculine, intelligent & sensual. ☎ 71876

Hot, Muscular, Passionwellrounded
GWM, muscular, hot bod, caring, fun, 35, loves a variety of things, 5'11", 175lbs, HIV+, spiritual, passionate. ISO same for great chemistry w/friend and long term lover. ☎ 71877

Partner Wanted Honesty Helps
GWM, 5'11", 165#, 53, ns,nd, HIV-, seeks for same. Likes travel, walks, movies, gardening. 35-55 for LTR. ☎ 71878

Rugged Guy
Professional, clean-cut, athletic Asian, 5'2, 5'8", 155, seeks similar lean or gym-toned, clean shaven WM into hiking, sports, running, workouts, cultural arts, films, ethnic foods, quiet interludes and you? ☎ 71879

Hot French Love
French guy in 30's or 40's desired for more than friendship by hung romantic blue eyed European in 30's. ☎ 71891

Spank Me
Cute little frat boy 22 needs over the knee discipline from a dominant big brother. Me? 5'11", 155# blonde smooth bottom boy. Athletic into jockstraps, speedos and dads hand on my bottom. Location China Town. ☎ 71892

Mature Man Wanted
Seeking a matured man late 50s to 60s, weight proportioned to height who would enjoy being serviced on a periodic basis, no reciprocation necessary. Must have your own place. Let's get together! ☎ 71893

GWM-48-Seeks-GAM/GWM-To-45
For monogamous long term relationship. Must enjoy movies, theatre and home life. No barflies or drugs. ☎ 71894

Man Of The Heart
WM, 35, youthful, HIV+ open to love healthy positive attitude, down to earth, sense of humor, looking for HIV+ male masculine, 25-37. Emotional available attractive, playful, top, ready for love. ☎ 71895

Handsome Muscular Italian
40, 6'2", 185lbs, into fitness, travel, romance and quiet times seeks another HIV negative extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 71896

Watchful For A Sexy, Masculine,
& energetic man who can keep up with an intense 29yo hot and passionate guy recently into leather, Universe, revealing w/friends but always into quiet weekends/rtr, extremes, everyday pleasures. Together: enough stances to know our identities with another and always with a heavy sex appeal! ☎ 71930

Looking For A HIV+ Partner?
Interested in an emotional, spiritual, sexual, and intellectual connection? I'm a huggable, 54yo, HIV+, worldly, well mannered/educated, professional, live alone, radical activist, warm, non-possessive, workout, 5'11", 175, hot kinky sex, versatile-top, hung, zero crop hair. You: want to be in a LTR with someone you want to hand on to, share life with. ☎ 71899

35yo Blond/Redhead Wheelchair
Goatee, seeks sane sexy male who enjoys being top to passionate bottom, must enjoy kissing and touching for LTR. ☎ 71901

Philipino Men
GWM 6'2" 165lbs. Would like to orally service you deep for 1 or 2 hours. Lay back and enjoy my tongue. I can take it all -your manhood. ☎ 71874

Calling Homebodies
GAM, 34, ISO friends to play tennis & bowling, enjoy tv & movies, dine, visit amusement parks. Tobacco user okay, N/D. Guys in & outside Bay Area equally welcome. ☎ 71902

Str. Acting GWM 6', 170lbs.
35 years old, average to good looks, like to ride bike, dining, movies, travel & a few cold ones. Once in a while looking for GWM with some interests. Discreet reply please. ☎ 71903

Positive Hunk For You
Stable, sincere, goodlooking, GWM, 5'10", 185lbs, 46"chest, 32w, 18'a, looking for friendship, dating, possible LTR with other HIV+ who has a brain as well as a good body. ☎ 71928

Professional & Passionate Guy
35yr old European guy. 6ft tall, 175lb, brn hair, blue eyes. HIV- & fit. Into travel, hiking, music, & having fun. ISO prof. Looking for romance & friendship. ☎ 71929

GBM, 32, 6'2", 170, Smlth Ln Bld
Cin, cut, hg 8", drug & std free, ISO slim White males 18 to 26 on for poss. LTR. ☎ 71979

Straight From The Heart!
Very cute GWM, mid-30's, boy next door seeks top for making love, romance and laughter. ☎ 71931

Seeking Brainy Guy
GWM, 54, 5'8", 185,brn/blue, HIV-, wishes to meet a man of ideas, intellect and curiosity- a bright fellow interested in conversation, discourse and the pursuit of happiness and fulfillment. ☎ 71957

Sexy Asian
Seeking sincere, honest. Lots of humor. 5'6" 40-55. Me- 5'6", 140#. Enjoy movie, music, possible LTR. ☎ 71932

Hot Latino
UB GWM, 45ish, HIV-, hunky, into sucking and getting sucked. I'm trim, goodlooking, with a good outdoor job. So call? ☎ 71933

Ukrainian Man 33yo, 182cm/82kg
Likes discipline and punishments. Open for contacts with concryctive ideas about visits, travels, job and interesting correspondence. Call. ☎ 71934

Submit!
Leather boy wanted by leather dad in E. Bay. Dad is experienced in bdsm, total top, 50's, 6', 225, masc, hung. Ub White, fit, hairy+musc. Preferred for play/LTR. HIV-. ☎ 71937

Old Fashion Love
GWM 34, 6'3", 200# into romance, passion, possibly monogamous, LTR seeks GWM 30-40 interested in same. Humor A+. The real thing!! Please, no games. ☎ 71898

GWM Seeks Sweetheart
ISO a warm, caring & considerate, GWM or GWM, 36-46. HIV-, who enjoys the outdoors, movies, dining out, kissing & cuddling. Me: GWM, a young 42, HIV-, 5'9", 175lbs, brn/blue. ☎ 71958

HIV+ Blks' 9"165#Healthy Active
Mostly top, seeking 1on1 interaction with lean or slim build mostly bottom. Attracted to guys with good body proportion. Preter guys in my size range. ☎ 71959

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino 34yo black hair, goatee, brown eyes. Professional looking for GWM between 27-40yo for friendship. Me like good dinner, biking, travel, hiking, just call. ☎ 71960

Let's Date
GWM, 42, 200lbs. s&p hair, HIV-, seeks 35-45yo. Top. I am financially secure prof who likes fun times and engaging conversation. HIV-only pls. Just a call away. ☎ 71961

Libertarian
Masculine. In great shape, 40, 175#, 67-110; brn/brn. HIV positive, completely healthy. My dogs, my ranch, working out. Some travel, some movies, some town, some country. Someone. Simple, easy, fun. ☎ 71974

Goodlooking Latino 29
I'm 5'6", 165lbs., stocky, muscular, dark features. Seeking Latinos or Whites under 40 for friendship for building a monogamous LTR. N/s only. ☎ 71975

GAM 48 Seeks GWM 70 Or Over
For ltr. Prefer non-smoker, clean shaven & mid-west background. ☎ 71976

Coffee Seeking Cream
42year old, 5'10", smooth, fun, romantic into outdoor adventure and indoor intimacy. Seeks LTR with GM into passion. fun and conversation. ☎ 71977

GWM LTD Time Offer Bip XXXX
Adventuresome affectionate, 6'-1", 175#, br/g, 40 look 33, clean shaven, architect, nonsmoker, early riser, own flat, swim, hike, cook, mussels, nude massage, romantic b+b's or "Thelma and Louise" roadtrips. ☎ 71936

GWM 45yrs, HIV+ Bottom
Handsome 45yrs old, HIV+, bottom looking for GWM HIV+ top ages 40-50 for fun, sex & possible LTR. ☎ 71935

R U Romantic Caring GWM 28-38?
Attractive GAM 5'11", 175lbs professionally employed, well-adjusted individual into movies, hiking, cooking, quiet time ISO similar. Friendship first and possibly more. Chat over coffee? ☎ 71978

SEEKING ADVENTURE

They Call Me "Big Black"
I need a tall, husky, non-bearded, submissive bottom to ride my rod. Discreet, experienced only. Moustache a plus. Fast, hot action. I'm 45, 5'9", 180lbs, hunk. ☎ 71880

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service any age/race. I'm HIV-, White, 6', 160, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing? Camcord same close up? ☎ 71922

Are You Ready
To meet a very active 66yo. gay Jewish male who is slim and good-looking? Slender Latin or Asian a plus. Hayward area. ☎ 71939

Hot Man-Pussy
Asian, 35, 5'8", 165, in shape, total bottom wants to surrender his hot shaved head to you. Fist, cock, I want it all. East Bay. ☎ 71881

One Wild Fuck
Vers. muscle fuck looking for masculine handsome man to screw. I'm ready 24/7 to take you down. Can you do the same for me? ☎ 71882

Horny In San Leandro
Handsome, hot 39yr. old GWM, loves to suck dick, slow and long, you tell me how you like it, open to all fantasies, call me 24 hours. ☎ 71883

I'm An Old Gray-Haired Cocksucker
Who does what he's told. Put your prick- I'll put my tongue-where we can both enjoy it. Pluses: friendliness, experience, lean physique, unmistakable masculinity. Any race. East Bay. ☎ 71884

Let's Do It
Wanna fuck me? I wanna fuck you. I'm 52 yr. old, 6'2", 180lbs., 7'+. You are height/weight, somewhat the same, HIV+. ☎ 71885

Cock Sucker Needed
Mature WM, slim, hairy, HIV- 7'uncut seek gay male HIV- with 8'+ for sucking and licking. ☎ 71904

Seeking Younger Submissive Man
Attr. mature man, 76, 5'8", 165, seeks gdl'g under 45 man for ongoing sex. I especially enjoy being a dad or/ and master to a trainable sexy toy. ☎ 71905

Santa Rosa Head
W/M, 44, 26/25 will service W/M's no recip. Great Rincon Valley location for a nooner. ☎ 71987

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Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

J0 Adventurer
Unabashed stroker seeks curious hedonist any age/race, to wallow together in prolonged edging, egotless ecstasy, and full-stop self pleasuring. Side-by-side scene (no physical contact necessary). ☎ 71906

Ass Massage-Erotic Spanking
Look at, touch, squeeze, massage, tickle, spank, probe & screw your butt. Me: attract, GWM, 45, 6'5", 250lbs, stocky. You: attract, GM(White, Asian, Latin), slim, smooth/moderate bodyhair, nice buns. ☎ 71907

Submissive Role Player
Need a dominant verbal guy with a trim build to tell me what to do. This masculine lean WM 42 is open to your fantasies. ☎ 71908

Poz Ital 4 Vers Asians
Masc. 56, 6'11"-220# loves to rim, suck, fuck- top/bottom. UB 18-40 Asian or smooth White dude. N/D, ok my place or yours. ☎ 71909

Daddy & Son Seek Asian For
Second son. BM, 25, 6'9", muscles. Top son & WM, 45, 5'10", 160#, muscles. Top dad seek AM, bottom son. SF weekdays. ☎ 71910

Pussy Videos
I'd like to come over & watch pussy videos pretending we're straight. We'd get so horny that we'd have to take it out, show it off & then get down'n dirty. ☎ 71912

Fantasy Ecstasy You And Me
GWM, HIV+, 30's, romantic, hot passionate bottom ISO, Latin, White, Black tops 35-45yrs seeking fuckbuddy's "no head games!" ☎ 71913

Expert Cocksucker Wanted
Horny Black guy, 34, 5'11", 200lbs needs oral service by cocksucking expert. Prefer older, 40-50 White guy or Asian. Suck my cock-lick my balls. ☎ 71915

Amateur Dicksitter
ISO practice partners. Talented asshole self. Adjusts to accommodate cocks of any size, race or age. ☎ 71916

Waters Warm In My Hot Tub
Russian River guy with room to grow. Avid oral endurance performance by command, sir. No job too small, but some too big. No recip. nec. but enjoyed. ☎ 71917

Well-Hung Bottom Seeks Top
GWM 49, 5'8", 140# salt-pepper hair, HIV+, 8"+ cut, vers. Bottom looking for hot top for long party sessions ☎ 71918

Black Top Looking For Buddy
I'm 40, 5'10", 205#, well-built. Looking for a masculine Black or Latino bottom, 35-50, with a great butt and/or great legs for fun at my place in SF. ☎ 71919

Cute Latino Boy
You: 35-50, goodlooking, generous, top, White or Latino and romantic. Me: Your wet dream! You won't be sorry! ☎ 71920

Sexy GAM Wants Doggy-Style Fun
Filipino, 31, clean cut, athletic build, smooth, boyish seeks GWM for soft kisses and hard pumping. Couples welcome. Blonds a plus. ☎ 71921

Silver Fox Seeks Same
50yo pos GWM, 5'10", 170lbs, uncut, ISO a few good men 40-60 wanting hot oral sex. Reciprocity not necessary. Daytime adventures o.k. Bottom for right top. ☎ 71940

Let's Play Doctor
I'll strip you naked as I examine you and you'll be scared or shy or ashamed or bad & definitely hard; then you'll do me and we'll get so horny together. ☎ 71942

Big Bush
Do you have a really thick, big bush of hair down there? Want to strip, pose, be sketched? Attractive GWM, 40s, trim and fit, wants to watch and sketch gay/bi or str8 guys. ☎ 71943

Mature Masculine Submissive
Seeks dominant for bdsm erotic play. SW, 53 is intelligent experienced imaginative. Prefer same. ☎ 71982

Like To Suck Cock And Get Fucked
GWM, 5'11", 175lbs. HIV-, n/s, n/d.. I like to suck cock 6 to 8". Like to play with your ass and balls, get fucked while watching video's. Please call, age no factor. ☎ 71886

Asian For White Male
Asian male, 36, 145lbs, 5'7" attractive, in great shape, smooth, clean shaven. In search of White Male in their 30's, smooth, and good shape for friends, dates and more. ☎ 71941

Spanking Guys
Need your butt warmed up good? 47, fit, handsome, 5'8", 150, 25 years of discipline games. Seeking lean guy, 20's/30's for bareassed spanking. Need it? then drop trou & call! ☎ 71988

Hot White Or Latino Bottoms
Wanted by 56yr old White male 6'0", 160lbs dm/bm hair brn eyes glassed big 9" cock wants to fuck hot White or Latin bottoms ages 18-40. ☎ 71946

Submissive Black Bottom
In good shape, athletic body. Hot mouth, deep throat seeks top, verbal & raunchy, kinky, sleaze & wk ends & eve. ☎ 71962

Young Slave For Training
Very cute 26yo, a submissive European boy wants to be trained by a cute but demanding master(s) under 36. Total obedience is guaranteed. ☎ 71963

I Want To Suck You Off, Slowly
1 or 2 at a time, in-shape. Straight acting, not nelly, masculine & Cowboys A+. I'm 35, masculine but submissive & ready to service you. Sir! ☎ 71964

Balding And Near 50
But hung and horny Black man seeks a mature, masculine oral expert to suck my stick. Oakland area. No voicemail, answering machine, pager or work phone #'s. Sincere only. Thanks. ☎ 71965

Asian And Filipino Bottoms Yea
Affectionate, masculine, always horny top with big tool wants to make love to your ass. Italian, 38, 165#, HIV-. Call if you want to be my bottom. ☎ 71981

Seeking Black Jackoff Partner
33yo blonde hair, blue eyed man seeks j/o adventure. Want discreet, handsome, masculine Black male. Uncut and hung a plus. Call for more details. ☎ 71983

Straight? You Can't Help It!...
But you sure can help the lousy head you're getting from uneager/untalented females by switching to male me! I'll suck you off both eagerly and right, tonight! ☎ 71985

Well-Hung Butch Bottom
GWM 49, 5'8", 140#, s/p hair, HIV+, 8"+ cut, vers., very oral and anal... Looking for butch top for long party sessions! ☎ 71944

Fact Of Gay (As In My) Life:
More gay guys wanna suck tool than ever want their tools sucked. That's why I luv suckin str8 guys off. They appreciate it (and shoot) more. Can't get enuf. Try me! ☎ 71986

Non Hair Bear Top
56 GWM HIV- 6'5", 265 wants shorter HIV- hairy bear bottom with hot hole, playful tits, aroma/smoke are fine. ☎ 71966

Dad ISO Boy
Dad late 40's looking for boy 20's-30's with interest in leather SM related activities/lifestyle. Mentor rather than playmate. Honest. Genuine interest in ongoing training/companionship. ☎ 71938

Seek GM For Passionate Fun
GWM, 46, 5'8", 145 seeks trim Asian, Latin, or Black for passionate early morning or daytime fun. Must like to kiss, hug, stroke & get passionately wild! Your place or mine. ☎ 71914

RU Short But Dominant?
Very submissive for smaller, dominant guys. Me, 5'10", 140lbs, slim, gym, 48yo. Expert full-body service including massage. Can take some pain. Race not a factor. ☎ 71980

Chronic Masturbation Addict
GWM, 32, thin, chronic masturbator, jacks compulsively naked for hours, days, wants like-minded buddy for repeated, obsessive, marathon sessions. Under 35, thin, South Bay A+. ☎ 71911

Horny Hot Bottom
Fuck my pussy hungry hole with your delicious cock. Me: cute and always horny. You must be 20-45 with any race. ☎ 71945

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Bodyworship, muscle sex, role play, orders, flexing, posing, weightlifting in jockstrap. Call with your fantasy. 5'9", 195lb. 45°C, 16a. ☎ 71967

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Seeking Lesbian
GWM French, 24-seeks lesbian to share experience. ☎ 71887

FETISHES

Chubby? Got A Belly?
Trim Chaser/encourager seeks 20-35 yo guy with healthy appetite. Let me feed you and build your belly. Forget fit, I like you fat. ☎ 71947

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 71968

Master 48, Experienced-
Seeks whipping boy/bondage slave-eager to please, and serve. Subject should be 24-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subject dedicated to the satisfaction of its master. Limits respected/expanded. S 71862

FFT Seeks Latin/Asian/Black FFB
Into getting punched and stretched. Me: GWM, 28, 6'2", 153#, stash, goatee. You: any age, speed free. A+ for facial hair, stocky flat top. Safe sex a must. ☎ 71863

Bondage, Shaving And Ticking
Submissive bottom, 36, 5'10", 165, brn, hzl, good looking dominant top for bondage/ shaving/ fucking scene. How would you handle me, Sir? ☎ 71949

Furry Lip And Open Throat?
Hung and horny East Bay man, 46, enjoys watching a moustache bouncing on his big stick. Too big for beginners. Please no beards or goatees, voicemail or work phones. ☎ 71865

Just Sex But Passionate
Boy 35, 5'11", 190 brn eyes & hair (HIVpos). You be 40-55 bald. Hairy chest A+ must love to kiss & touch a lot of four/play for weekend get-togethers. ☎ 71992

Extreme Raunch Action.
W/M, looking for other raunch hounds into derelicts, winos & homeless guys, for heavy raunch action. ☎ 71969

Talented Mouth And Tongue
By energetic GWM, 38, 5'8", 125#, go-g, gym love to suck, rim, drink piss. You: In-shape, take charge, wanting tongue lashing, White/Latin. ☎ 71923

Straight Seeks Senior Citizen
Masculine-attractive WM, 57, needs male over 65 with two or more senior friends to arrange circle jerk with me as center piece. Ok- to video tape or take photos. ☎ 71924

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Do you love to be tied, tickled and teased? It can be slow and sensual or wild and playful. My fingers, feathers, brushes and tongue are ready! ☎ 71993

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Seek Red/Brown Flag Lt Sm Top
By mature GWM for training, limit expanding, service, bondage, restraint, prefer mature, hairy, single, serious/intense man. Leather, old Soma A+ +. ☎ 71970

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Wanted athletic gay male and your gear. Bring your jockstrap, spandex shorts etc. And we will have a good time, you won't be disappointed. ☎ 71948

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East Bay Couple 34, & 37
Seek third or couple for erotic fun (maybe more). We are safe, sane, HIV-, physically active, versatile, vanilla to kinky. You should be too. Willingness to explore, blond + +. ☎ 71889

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Sonoma Co.gdklg GWM couple, 40's, HIV+, w/facial hair, seek adventurous tops, bottoms, singles, couples for wet, hot times in our hot tub, sling and playroom. ☎ 71888

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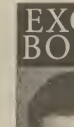
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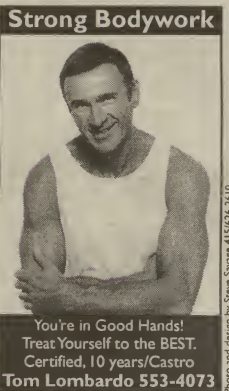
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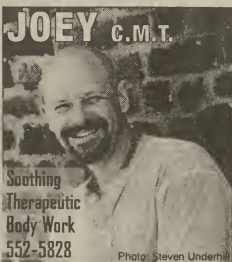
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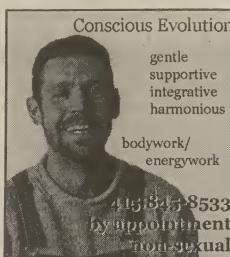
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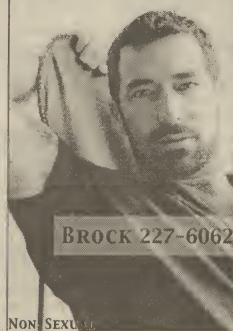
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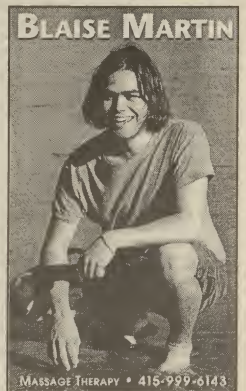
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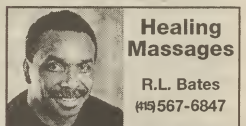
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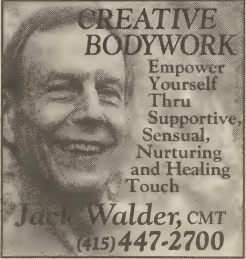


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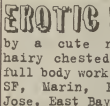
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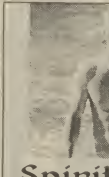
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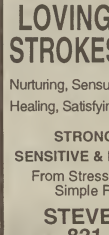
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 Fullbody energy massage 8to8PM
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Professional Massage 292-5929
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Nude Massage 21 y/o 55/hr 5'6"

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Relaxing &/or Erotic by a very

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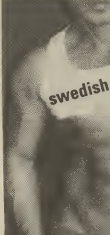
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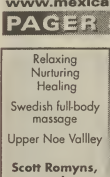
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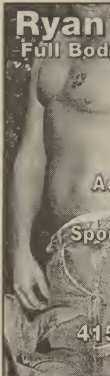
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252




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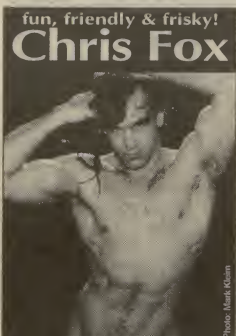
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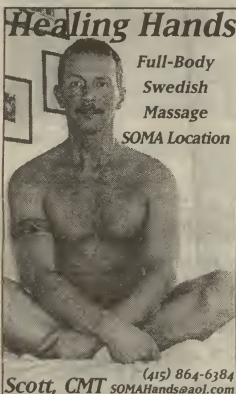
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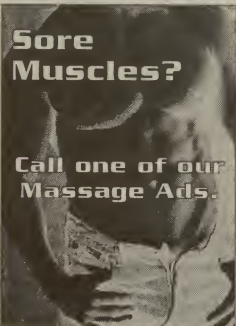
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Sensual massage 415-207-5219

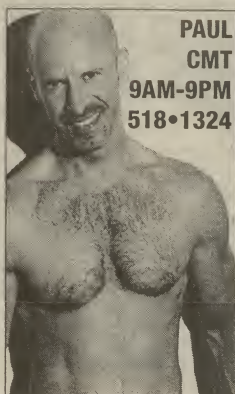
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In/Out-\$60
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gives it like you need it.
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5'11", 185lbs. 30yo/o., Smooth, Mus-
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\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817

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w/thick hairy muscles 6' ,215#
17", arms, 50"chest, 35" waist
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Handsome 22yo/w/packed shorts
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Lean, athletic body- versatile
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33yo 6' 195 Czech w/buzzed dark
hair, tats, hairy, built. Like
kickin back, getting serviced, and
blowin my load. Also w/s. light b/d,
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Kicks back for service/oral *24hrs.
10"X 6" *UNCUT*
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-long, & slow- my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtuned
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Dominant Leatherman

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CBT, flat top,
FF, Blue Eyes,
Slave, mustache,
Training, 7" Uncut.

Beginners Welcome

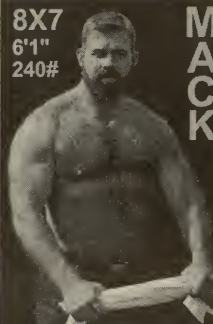
Have equipment and playspace.

Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out

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8X7
6'1"
240#

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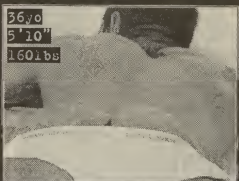
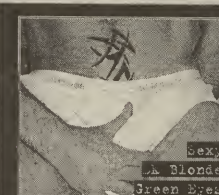
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Kimmie

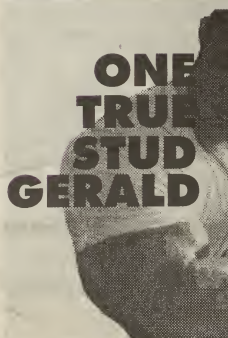
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Hairy pecs, big biceps, powerfull
legs & butt. Hard 8x6c. 207-9045

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6ft 165 Smooth
Gym built and beautifully hung
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Sexy, slender Latin jock smooth,
clean uncut any area
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Swimmer stud with muscle, 5'10", 160#
washboard abs, cut chest, big arms.
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Clint 415 864 2974 lots of time.

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Masculine
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Cute 32 6' 170 nice smile.
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Smooth, hardbuilt, deep satisfaction
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32yo 5'8", toned furry tattooed
THE RIGHT FIST
Experienced reliable small hands
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Hardcore to mainstream. I respect
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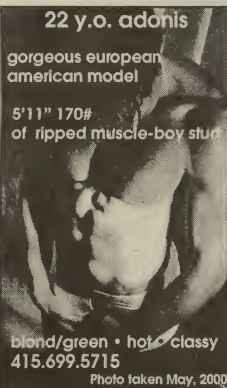
6'2" very handsome, muscular 27
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Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#s, 30"w, 8" 739-7312

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8 1/2 uncut 5'10", 170# shvhd indked.
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CUTE, MUSCULINE, 24YRS
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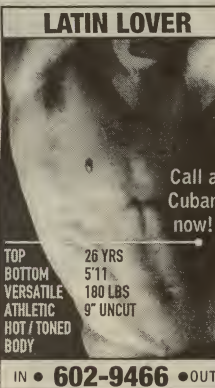
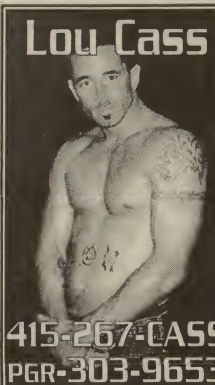
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Hot,horny,handsome \$65in/\$85out

Muscular blond bubble butt
big-peks friendly clean cut
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40yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut,flatlop
Gdiking into bondage, s/m, w/s,
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Beginner? Have playspace & equip.
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Safe Master for creative s/m &
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8" Nudist/Oral/Ken/346-4966/ \$60

24YO MONTANA BOY
5'11" 170 brn/grn
vgl- inshape lean
muscular ver top
8" out only 596 3143

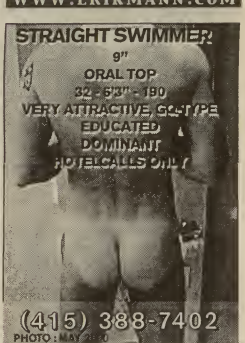
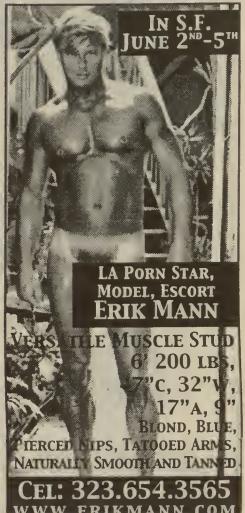
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Very handsome, very well endowed,
beautiful tool & know how to use it.
Fulfill your fantasy & push to your
limit very easy to be with 207 6117

SIZE 12 FEET- HOT- TOP
Gd Lking Foot top 40yo, 6'1", 195#
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Very discreet and friendly
clean slim built with boyish
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Midwest boy 29, 5'10", 160,
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Unbelievably attractive & muscular
wants fun exciting kinky subs
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Bottom out in my sling Solid
tight & muscular! 6'180 48yo. Like
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pro equipped w 8 1/2" & big butt.
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http://come.to/tom101 Tom

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GBM 9.5x6c 415.253.8080 \$150
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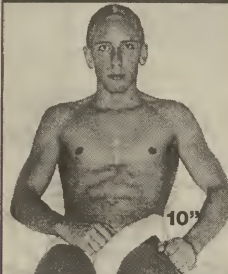
20 YR BLK MALE

Smooth athletic build
masculine 9 1/2inc versatile (travel)
In/out 24hrs Austin (916) 602-3484

MODELS/ESCORTS

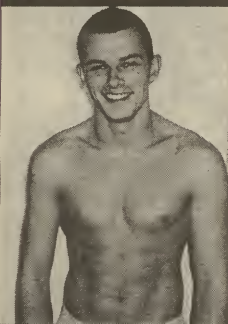
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BODYBUILDER,**
220lbs,
6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
Paris, France
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21 YEARS OLD



Blond 5'10", 150 lbs
Out Only
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5'9", lean, smooth & muscular
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Huge schlong and firm butt
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ALL AMERICAN BOY
24, 5'11", swimmers build, 8" tool
masculine, affectionate, very cute
mild to wild 100% rock hard top
Justin (415) 208-0927
Outcalls within SF avail. 24hrs
Call me and lets have some fun!

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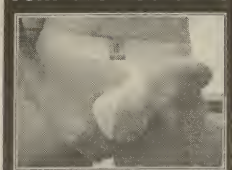
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RICK 415-863-1502

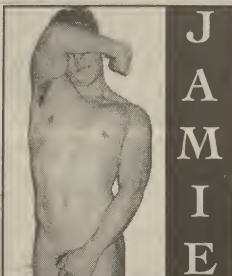
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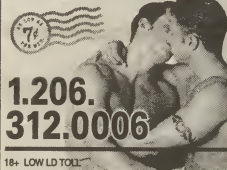
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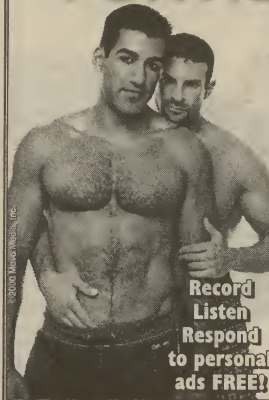
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